

Spring 2021

Kenyon Alumni Magazine - Spring 2021

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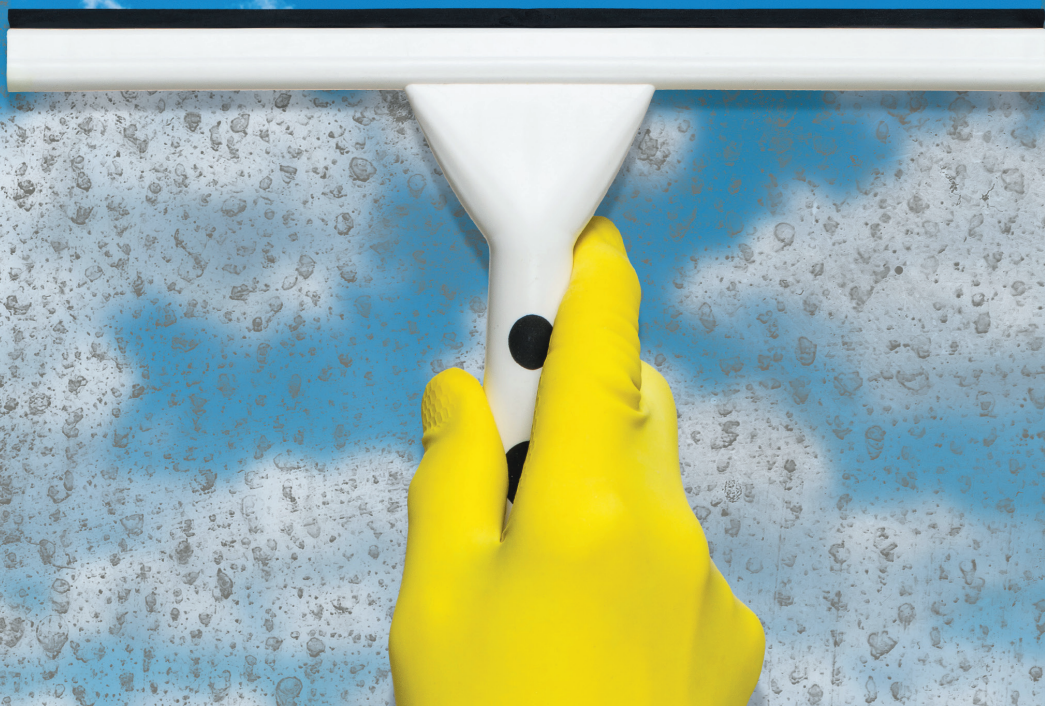
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HOPE

(AT LAST!)

16 reasons Kenyon alumni are
optimistic about the future

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A Shot of Hope

Patricia Koskei '21, an international studies major from Columbus, receives a Johnson & Johnson vaccine from Dr. Eric Hansen during Kenyon's vaccination clinic at the Lowry Center in April.

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On the cover: Illustration by Edmon de Haro

Facing page: Photo by Brooke LaValley





TO OUR LETTER WRITERS

We welcome letters of 300 or fewer words. Letters to the editor may be used for publication unless the author states the letter is not to be published. Letters may be edited for style, length, clarity, grammar and relevance to Kenyon issues.

PLEASE ADDRESS SUBMISSIONS TO:
Editor, Kenyon Alumni Magazine, Office of Communications, Kenyon College, 221 N. Acland St., Gambier, Ohio 43022. Letters may also be submitted to editor@kenyon.edu.

CORRESPONDENCE | LETTERS

Fall/Winter 2020

Rest well, Bruce.

It was with deep sadness that I learned of the passing of Dr. Bruce Haywood (In Memoriam, Fall/Winter 2020).

Although I never had him for a class, Bruce exerted a great influence upon me during my Kenyon years. Whenever the rigors of a Kenyon education would get me down, I would see Bruce striding purposefully off to teach a class, his umbrella making a staccato beat as he progressed along Middle Path. That sight forcibly reminded me that the struggle attendant to the intellectual enterprise is always well worth the hard work.

Also we must all remember that without the leadership of Bill Caples and Bruce Haywood, Kenyon would have ceased to exist!

Rest well, Bruce; you may be gone now, but you will not be forgotten.

— Daniel O Holland '61

Thanks, Mom and Dad!

I write just to remind all students, faculty and alumni to support Kenyon as much as possible. Don't take Kenyon for granted; it is such an outstanding college.

I still am not sure how I got in, but my Kenyon education has stood me well through four career changes. I have been an attorney, business broker, entrepreneur and teacher, and enjoyed every one of those endeavors. I went to Kenyon because, at the time (1965), I wanted to be a doctor, and Kenyon's reputation was such that if you graduated pre-med from Kenyon you could name your med school. Well, I fell in love with the Constitution while at Kenyon, so I switched to political science and became an attorney. No regrets, and today I raise as much hell about the dysfunctional criminal justice system as legally possible and help individuals nationwide.

My parents sacrificed financially to send me to Kenyon, and I shall greatly appreciate it until the day I die.

— Ken Abraham '69

Hot Takes

Social media expert David Hoyt '14 scours the Kenyon web so you don't have to.

HE'S STILL GOT IT

Nearly a century after his birth, Paul Newman '49 H'61 has achieved something rare among Hollywood stars — the late movie star still hasn't been canceled. Cultural commentator Louis Virtel put it like this on Twitter:

“Happy birthday to Paul Newman, the only person in history to be hot, talented, and normal.”



@LATENIGHTKENYON

An account was created solely to post pictures of menus on Instagram so students can know if it's worth trudging to Peirce at 10 p.m. for jalapeno poppers. Oh, and there's an avatar of Borat wearing a mankini for some reason. That's it. That's the concept.

SOCIAL POETRY

Noting correctly that “there's a bot for everything these days,” The Kenyon Thrill asked a website that writes AI poetry to analyze tweets from Kenyon's official account, @kenyoncollege, and published the results:

GOT HIS ...

BY KENYON COLLEGE

After last year's virtual ride!

At 7 p.m. for the fifth panel...

Student voting guide...

A recording on our YouTube channel.

Of the anthropology department!
Chalmers Library is looking good!
Results received. Active student...
Current mood

Design adorn Lowry Center:...
Congrats!
Tonight's panel at 7 p.m. Easter...

Unfortunately we don't have addit...
Stood out in a year like no oth...
Watch the first half of our tradit...

We await the judgment of the Nobel committee.



MIDDLE PATH CATWALK

A year of social distancing and face coverings has made stand-out fashion even more important on campus. How else can you make an impression from a safe distance with half your face behind a mask? On Instagram, @kenyonfashion is “dedicated to capturing the various styles of Kenyon,” showing off the bright, creative, fun and fearless sartorial choices of Gambier. The tagline? “Your major doesn't matter when it comes to fashion.”



BEDROOM POP

With live performances almost impossible during the past academic year, it's been a tough time for Kenyon's typically thriving band scene. But even if the Horn Gallery is shuttered, quarantines and quiet periods have done wonders for the burgeoning “bedroom pop” genre of music that lives primarily on the internet. Case in point: Check out @ohio.martinez on Instagram, the one-woman band alter ego of Dani Martinez '21 and look for links to her lo-fi, DIY slow burn of a debut album, “Sentences and Figurines,” on Apple Music, Spotify and Bandcamp.

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STAY IN TOUCH
bulletin.kenyon.edu

The 43022

Hope is an action verb

When I was a student at Oberlin College in the early 2000s, my housemate would often come home after her environmental studies classes taught by David W. Orr, the Paul Sears Distinguished Professor of Environmental Studies and Politics Emeritus, flushed with inspiration and eager to share everything she had just learned.

I marveled at how happy she seemed after lectures on, of all things, climate change. I never took one of Professor Orr's classes but, in 2008, I interviewed him for an Ohio Magazine profile and, finally, it all made sense. He moved about the world with an aura of hopeful energy, and when I asked him what kept him going even when it felt like the world was falling apart, he said something that has stuck in my mind ever since: "Hope is a verb with its sleeves rolled up. Hope is always busy trying to change the odds."

On the surface, the definition of hope seems obvious. But if you dig a little deeper, it gets complicated. When I asked Assistant Professor of Psychology Leah Dickens — a social psychologist who studies the functions of emotions in everyday life — what hope means to her, she framed it in relation to its close cousin, optimism.

"Hope is a positive emotion, but when you think about it a little bit further, you realize how much of it is cognitive. Hope is about feeling positive when you think about the future, but it also involves thoughts about how you get to that future state," she said. And while optimism can be about things outside of our control, hope is focused on what is within our control. "Some might define hope as an optimistic belief that the goals we want will be attained."

For this issue of the magazine, we sought out stories of hope in action and found them everywhere. From the emergency room doctor who co-founded a nonprofit to support health care workers, to the engineer designing systems that make housing in New York City more equitable, to the classics major who uses Greek tragedies to help thousands of people heal from trauma, Kenyon folks are creating reasons to be hopeful for the future.

After a long, dark year, many of us are rolling up our sleeves to receive a literal shot of hope: a COVID-19 vaccine. Now let's get to work trying to change the odds.

— **Elizabeth Weinstein**
EDITOR, KENYON ALUMNI MAGAZINE

ICEBREAKER

Timothy Bussey

ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION

A member of Kenyon's Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (ODEI) since 2018, Timothy Bussey focuses on supporting the College's LGBTQ+ community through programming, educational initiatives and advising student groups. With an academic background in political science, they have taught "Introduction to Queer Studies" at Kenyon and published articles on educational, health care and policy issues in publications like *The Conversation* and *BUST* magazine. Working with the NCAA, Bussey travels to other Division III institutions to facilitate increased equity and inclusion in college athletics, and is active in LGBTQ+ organizations in and around their home of Newark, Ohio.

Hometown: Columbus, Georgia

How would you describe yourself in a sentence?

It's not quite a sentence, but I usually respond with either "verbose but thorough" or "Southern and very queer."

What are you most proud of achieving at Kenyon?

The development of the Kenyon Queer and Trans Studies Conference, which started based upon needs expressed by Kenyon seniors during my first year on campus. Three years later, it's the largest LGBTQ+ student conference in Ohio.

What book has changed your life?

Daniel Lavery's 2020 book, "Something That May Shock and Discredit You," was really helpful for my exploration of gender identity, and ultimately, that book helped me to come out as transgender and non-binary.

It's been a strange year — what's one lesson you've learned during the COVID-19 pandemic?

For a serious answer, I've learned to give myself more time for rest and self-care. For a more lighthearted answer, I've learned that it's not a Zoom meeting until the words "you're on mute" are used.

— DAVID HOYT '14



STUDENT VOICE | ART

“My face has become my canvas.”

In this series of photographs, I synthesize my lifelong love of painting and color with my newfound passion for light in photography. By combining painting and photography, I explore how two artistic mediums can complement each other.

I have always been inspired by the colors and patterns of textiles, and how they reverberate rhythmically across fabric. In some photographs, I have stitched these textiles, in all their eccentricity and vibrance, onto a new canvas. All these elements collide in one photograph, sparking the audience's interest in pattern, not only for what it provokes aesthetically, but also for what it means symbolically.

I can show who I am with my art, and that is why I love to incorporate Nigerian culture. The fabrics featured in these works are hand-sourced from local markets in Nigeria, my home country. These “ankara” wax prints, which were once used to identify the status of the wearer, are now, in contemporary times, intermixed in all types of art, clothing and design.

Painting should not be limited to the surface of a canvas. When I express it with my face and body, I am pushing beyond the conventional idea of what makeup is, as well as the expression of beauty. By merging or adapting extant ideas, I hope to illustrate the promise of creating something new.

— KEFA MEMEH '22

The Look

Kefa Memeh '22 is a studio art major from Nigeria. More artwork can be found on her Instagram accounts, @its_kefa and @kefaxart.





FROM TOP: JORDAN HOLLENDER; COURTESY OF NANCY POWERS; COURTESY OF TRAVIS LAU

QUOTED



“If you’d told me when I was a student at Kenyon College — that reading a Greek play or an ancient text could result in saving someone’s life, or someone talking to their wife for the first time, or averting suicide, or averting an act of violence, or checking themselves into a 28-day treatment program — I’d say, ‘That’s ridiculous; that’s hyperbole; it’s absurd, it’s self-aggrandizing.’ But, in fact, that’s what we stumbled across.”

— CO-FOUNDER, PRINCIPAL TRANSLATOR AND ARTISTIC DIRECTOR OF THEATER OF WAR PRODUCTIONS,

Bryan Doerries ’98,

talking with Krista Tippett on her podcast, “On Being.”
Read more about Doerries on page 30.



“It is past time that senators think less about their prerogatives and more about making their chamber more representative of and accountable to the American electorate.”

— ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF POLITICAL SCIENCE AND ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF THE CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF AMERICAN DEMOCRACY,

Nancy Powers ’83,

writing in Roll Call about how to build a better filibuster.

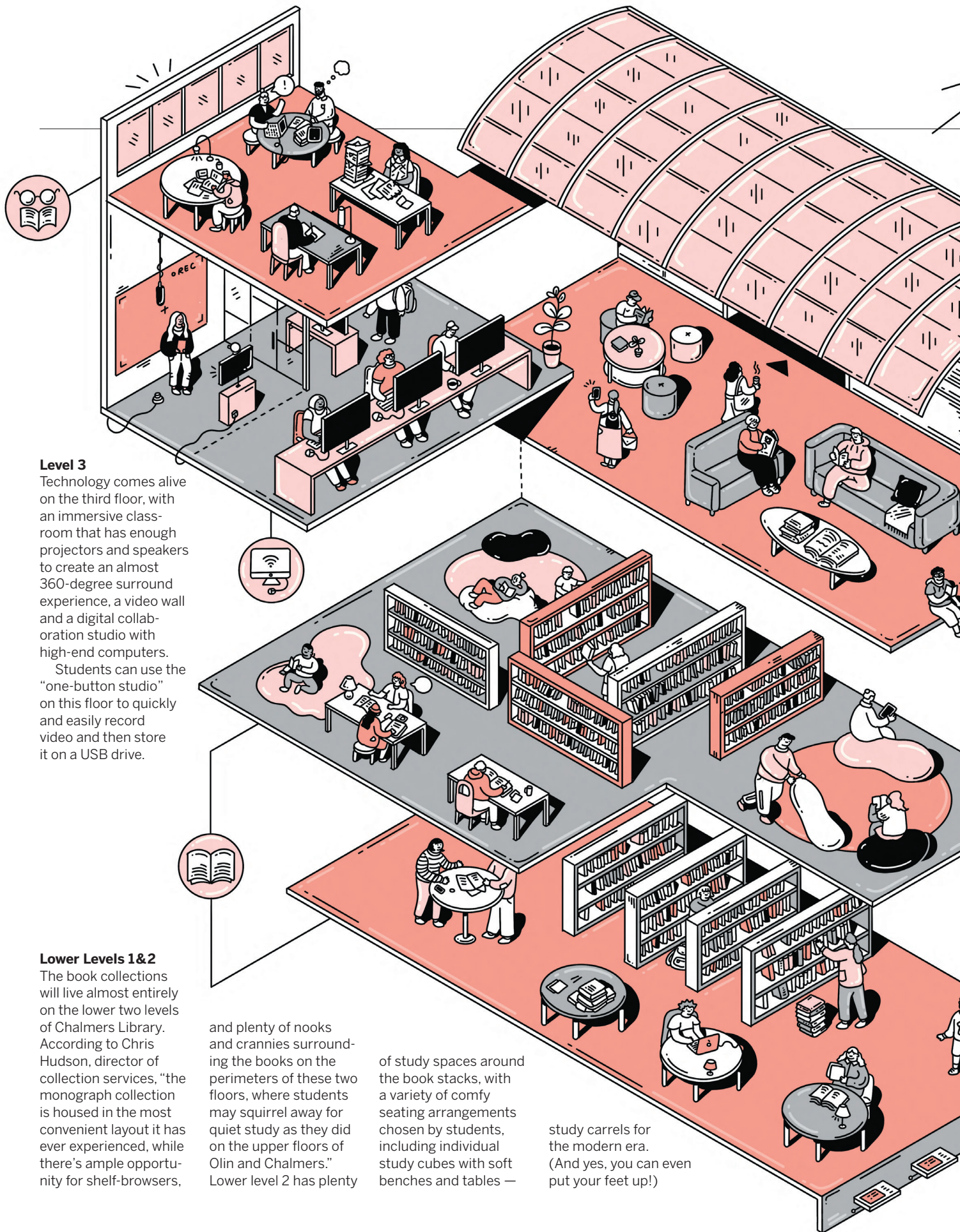


“Everyone benefits if you’re a little bit more compassionate.”

— ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF ENGLISH

Travis Lau

in USA Today, on changes he hopes will outlast the COVID-19 pandemic.



Level 3

Technology comes alive on the third floor, with an immersive classroom that has enough projectors and speakers to create an almost 360-degree surround experience, a video wall and a digital collaboration studio with high-end computers.

Students can use the "one-button studio" on this floor to quickly and easily record video and then store it on a USB drive.

Lower Levels 1&2

The book collections will live almost entirely on the lower two levels of Chalmers Library. According to Chris Hudson, director of collection services, "the monograph collection is housed in the most convenient layout it has ever experienced, while there's ample opportunity for shelf-browsers,

and plenty of nooks and crannies surrounding the books on the perimeters of these two floors, where students may squirrel away for quiet study as they did on the upper floors of Olin and Chalmers." Lower level 2 has plenty

of study spaces around the book stacks, with a variety of comfy seating arrangements chosen by students, including individual study cubes with soft benches and tables —

study carrels for the modern era. (And yes, you can even put your feet up!)

Level 4

Thrill-seekers (or anyone not afraid of heights) can snag a study spot in a crow's nest, or reading nook that overlooks the atrium.

There are two reading rooms on level 4 that offer arguably the best views on campus: One overlooks the tree tops along Middle Path, and the other, the West Quad.

The 43022

THE VIEW

Hello, Chalmers!

A sneak peek at Kenyon's new library

When the doors to Chalmers Library open to the public this fall, visitors will discover a modern, light-filled academic hub in the new West Quad. The building, which replaces the Olin and Chalmers Memorial libraries, is home to state-of-the-art technology for undergraduate research, a concentration of student services (like the Career Development Office and Writing Center), and classrooms that serve as laboratories for educational innovation. In addition, the library will be significantly greener and more energy-efficient than its predecessor, and designed with LEED® Gold certification in mind. A \$75 million leadership gift from an anonymous donor, among other significant support, made the project possible. The original Chalmers Memorial Library opened in 1962 and was named for Gordon Keith Chalmers, Kenyon's 13th president, who served from 1937 until his death in 1956. The new Chalmers Library will also recognize his wife, Roberta Teale Swartz Chalmers H'60, a poet, teacher and co-founder of the Kenyon Review.

"This entire building is focused on students' success," Associate Vice President for LBIS and Library Director Amy Badertscher said. With help from Badertscher and her team, we peeked behind the construction walls to highlight some fun and little-known facts about the latest addition to Kenyon's campus.

—ELIZABETH WEINSTEIN

INFOGRAPHIC BY KATHLEEN FU

Level 1

Librarians and student services are centrally located on the main floor, by the atrium, where they are easily accessible to students.

Most likely to appear in selfies? The atrium skylight, which features a glass art installation by David Wilson Design. The skylight spans an opening in the roof of the library that measures 56.5' x 89', according to construction project manager Seth D. Millam. This specially designed art installation generates a dynamic pattern of colors that change throughout the day based on the position of the sun.

Level 1 is home to the largest room in the library, the Robert K. Carver Jr. '79 Reading Room, with views to Middle Path through its two-story windows and a mix of desks and armchair seating for up to 100.

Level 2

Level 2 has an innovation classroom with flat panels, white boards and reconfigurable tables that can be pulled apart and put together in more than a dozen formations. Also here: Student success partners like the Registrar, Career Development Office, Writing Center and more.

What makes this building green?



A rainwater harvesting cistern from the roofs of Chalmers Library and Gund Gallery — rainwater is used to irrigate the underground parking garage green roof.



Daylighting and views throughout the building with daylight harvesting sensors to dim lighting.



Low-flow plumbing fixtures to reduce water consumption.



Shower rooms to allow building occupants to bike or jog to and from work in lieu of driving.



Preferred parking for high-occupancy vehicles, fuel-efficient vehicles and electric vehicles (with free charging stations).



Energy model and design to exceed current energy standards required by code with respect to electricity and natural gas consumption.

60-SECOND SYLLABUS | ENVS 391

Disease Ecology

TUESDAYS AND THURSDAYS,
8:10 - 9:30 A.M., TOMSICH HALL 101

TAUGHT BY IRIS LEVIN,
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF BIOLOGY
AND ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES

The emergence of deadly infectious diseases from non-human sources is something we've all become familiar with in the past year, but ecologist Iris Levin didn't start teaching her "Disease Ecology" course because of COVID-19. In fact, a key takeaway from the class is that we could benefit from being far more proactive, especially as climate change and human development affect previously stable ecosystems.

"Stuff like this is spilling over all the time. This one just happened to take hold," Levin said. "We should have been worrying about the next pandemic 10 years ago."

Because effective responses to new threats require coordination among multiple fields — not just disease researchers and doctors, but public health experts, policymakers, even veterinarians — Levin has designed the course to appeal to a wide range of students, kicking things off with an "ecology boot camp" focused on Lyme disease so non-science majors will find themselves on equal footing. Using popular science books as principal texts helps keep the



course accessible, but students also dive into cutting-edge literature.

Instead of a final exam, a capstone project asks students to confront a realistic disease outbreak scenario. After querying students about their career aspirations, Levin builds interdisciplinary groups whose goal is to design a mitigation plan — "a product that could potentially be shown to an employer or a graduate school," Levin said. "Students invest more when they feel like this is a real thing, rather than just an academic exercise. I always learn a ton from what my students put together for these projects." One example: a PR campaign promoting two-hump camels, because of a theory that the one-hump variety was a better host for SARS-CoV-2's more lethal cousin, MERS-CoV.

Worried you'll have trouble sleeping tonight with visions of viruses, pathogens and parasites dancing in your head? "This course is terrifying," Levin admitted, "but it's also really empowering — because then you know a lot more about what we ought to be doing."

— DAVID HOYT '14

RECOMMENDED READING

**"Lyme Disease:
The Ecology of a
Complex System,"**
by Richard Ostfeld

**"Spillover: Animal
Infections and
the Next Human
Pandemic,"**
by David Quammen

**"Parasite Rex:
Inside the Bizarre
World of Nature's
Most Dangerous
Creatures,"**
by Carl Zimmer



About Uphill/Downhill:

After a brief pandemic-induced hiatus, our evaluation of the highs and lows of Kenyon returns to grade life in Gambier on a literal curve.

UPHILL



SCORING SHOTS

Kenyon's Lowry Center played host to a Knox Public Health vaccination clinic in February, allowing a tennis court full of local senior citizens to rest easier from the threat of COVID-19. In addition to helping out Kenyon's local community, it was the most shots seen at the gym since the Lords' and Ladies' last basketball season.



PURPLE PRIZE PATROL

The Office of Student Engagement launched Purple Prize Patrol Thursdays, a goofy gesture that involved staff in silly costumes and free giveaways to students. To be honest, Philander Chase should have thought of something like this when he first saw a cold and gray Gambier in February.

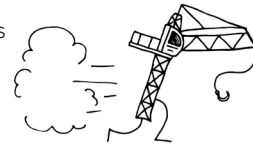
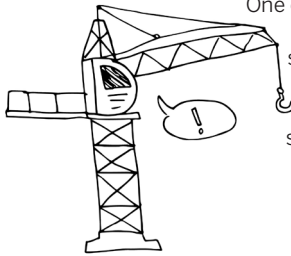


SOURDOUGH STARTER

Many of us developed new hobbies to cope with the pandemic. One LBIS staffer expanded his burgeoning sourdough bread business, selling fresh-baked crusty loaves on Fridays to anyone who placed an order. Devotees had to pay in bitcoin and submit their orders using Python coding, but the loaves went great with melted cheddar.

TEA FOR ONE

One of the tower cranes looming over the West Quad construction site has come down, now that structural work on Chalmers Library has been completed. That's a good sign of progress, but we can't help but worry that the second crane — working on new admissions and academic buildings — is a little bit lonely without anyone to talk to about the latest Middle Path fashion trends.



HANGRY DAZE

Students returning to campus in February found it harder to stop by the Village Market for an after-class Market Dog or to stock up on 30 racks for the weekend. Not immune to downturns in business that have affected stores and restaurants nationwide, Gambier's general store sported much-reduced hours early in the semester. Thankfully, the refrigerator cases are now once again glowing well into the evening.



WHERE THE PARTY NEVER ENDS

While the pandemic may be abating, Kenyon decided it wasn't safe enough in May to host an in-person Reunion Weekend, opting instead for two weeks of virtual programming. No word on if someone figured out how to do a virtual keg stand.



OUT FOR DELIVERY

After Kenyon already had dug out from several snowstorms this winter, employees in the chemistry department found themselves facing a different kind of blizzard: while staff were out for lunch one day, a delivery driver mistakenly heaped the entire College's order of office supplies in Tomsich Hall's room 110. On the plus side: box fort!



DOWNHILL



NEW RESIDENCE HALLS

Building Community

A record-breaking gift helps Kenyon enrich its residential experience.

BY VICKI GLEMOCKI | ILLUSTRATION BY JULIEN PICAUD

When Bradley Berklich '22 learned he wouldn't be able to return to Kenyon last fall, he understood the pandemic safety measures guiding the College's decision. Still, he felt sad and a little jealous of the first-years and sophomores who were invited back to Gambier. Even with new social distancing requirements, they could at least be in the same place, in person, together.

“We were totally trying to replicate the Kenyon vibe.”

— **Bradley Berklich '22**

on living in a “hype house” this past fall, with Kenyon friends

So when Giulia Cancro '22 invited Berklich to live with four other Kenyon students in Yonkers, New York, in “a really nice half-finished house” her parents were remodeling, he was a hard “yes.” What 20-year-old wouldn’t jump at the chance to spend a semester in a Prohibition-era house almost in Manhattan, for just \$300 a month, even if it was during a global pandemic, 550 miles away from campus?

“We were totally trying to replicate the Kenyon vibe,” he explained. The friends even dubbed their temporary digs “Kenyon on the Hudson.”

They weren’t the only ones. These Kenyon “hype houses” — named after a house in Los Angeles where a group of TikTok-famous personalities decided to live together and, of course, film themselves — were popping up all over the country. In fact, the Yonkers crew heard about so many others that housemate Skyler Lesser-Roy '22 began tracking them on a corkboard map. By the end of the fall, she’d thumbtacked 51 enclaves, from Honolulu to Salt Lake City to Andover, Maine.

Berklich and his friends tried to fill the void of not being on campus by doing quintessential Kenyon things: They lived, studied and ate together, negotiated shared bathroom rules, and hung out mostly with other Kenyon students who were living in hype house clusters around New York City. And they talked, incessantly, about Kenyon.

“There was a lot of pining for the physical buildings, for the architecture of the place,” Berklich remembered. “I missed sitting in a

200-year-old, wood-paneled room where presidents and poets have sat. The buildings are such an integral part of Kenyon.”

Fostering interaction

Community is Kenyon’s special sauce. It’s why students choose to enroll, why professors choose to settle in Gambier and why Kenyon is among about 20 U.S. colleges where 99 percent of students, or more, live on campus all four years. The residential experience helps Kenyon fulfill its mission to promote “rich collaborations and lifelong connections.”

The College was literally built to create community. Ever since Old Kenyon opened its doors in 1829, every building that’s been added to campus has had the same goal: “They needed



Left: Students lounge in Unity House, a living and learning space that serves as a resource and facility for LGBTQ+ focused programming, in 2019. Above: Students hang out in an Old Kenyon residence hall room, circa the mid-1950s.

FROM TOP: COURTESY OF THE KENYON COLLEGE ARCHIVES; REBECCA KIGER

Housing by the numbers

to foster interaction,” said Tom Stamp ’73, College historian and Keeper of Kenyoniana. “It’s by design.”

On January 26, that design entered a new epoch. “We’re here to announce some very exciting news,” said President Sean Decatur in a video shared widely on social media, speaking through a purple mask that matched his purple tie as he stood on the spot where Philander Chase decreed into lore, “This will do.” There was a pulse of optimism in his voice as he made the big announcement: An anonymous donor had given Kenyon \$100 million — the largest gift in the history of the College — to build three new residence halls on South Campus, right on that very spot.

“The residential experience, gathering people together from all over the country and all over the world to learn together on this hill in Gambier is essential to who we are, essential to what Kenyon is all about,” Decatur explained, as the camera panned over the snow-dusted campus. The generosity of the gift, which would add living space for more than 300 students, reaffirmed how essential the residential experience is to Kenyon and offered hope during a strange time.

Fortunately, Kenyon’s record-breaking gift could not have come at a more critical time. “It allows us to double down on the importance of the residential nature of our education,” said Vice President for Advancement Colleen Garland, but it enables so much more — freeing up other operating and fundraising dollars for student-focused priorities like increasing financial aid and high-impact experiences, in and out of the classroom. She added: “It shows the world that what we do at Kenyon is worthy of such a substantial investment.”

The gift offered new optimism that, after a very un-Kenyon-like year, the College might not just bounce back after the pandemic, but actually bounce forward.

An immersive community

Building an immersive community of inquisitive minds has been a Kenyon priority since the very beginning. Philander Chase’s primary goal was to find a spot that was as remote as possible to keep his students removed from “the vice and dissipation of urban life.” Even so, those first students had much the same residential experience students do today.

“The idea that a college should re-create the sense of family in the purity of nature was very much the thing at the time,” said Stamp. The difference was, the first first-years were crammed into tiny log cabins, sleeping in beds so short that their toes allegedly poked out between the logs into the rain and snow.

However, everything changed in 1829 when the whole operation moved into just-finished Old Kenyon. With its ornamental spires, 4-foot-thick walls and bull’s-eye windows, the monumental manse

50%

The response rate of Kenyon students to a housing study conducted by consultants Brailsford & Dunlavey — the highest rate among 300 schools surveyed.

2026

The year the housing project is expected to conclude.

three

New residence halls will be built on South Campus.

300+

New beds are planned for the three South Campus residence halls.

199

The net gain of beds on campus.

1972

The year the now ironically named New Apartments were built.

would eventually be recognized as the earliest “Collegiate Gothic” building in the country. But Chase had loftier hopes for Kenyon’s centerpiece. He believed that the architecture itself would inspire his students. In a letter to benefactor Lord Gambier, he described the “high and beautiful” steeple: “As you approach it, thoughts of the past and future force themselves on your mind.”

Unlike England’s closed and inward-focused university designs, Kenyon’s campus, as it grew, remained open and outward-looking on purpose, as if the orientation of the physical space might influence how students approached their education. The commitment to construct academic buildings on a relatively modest footprint made certain that students, however insulated on the Hill, were always aware of the world around them. “As you’re walking on Middle Path,” noted Stamp, “you can always look out between the buildings and see into the woods beyond the College.”

When the College needed more classroom space and transformed former faculty homes on College Park Street into academic buildings, it did not alter their fundamental structures. Instead, living rooms morphed into seminar rooms and porches became gathering spots for students and faculty members to continue their classroom conversations. New academic buildings like Keithley House and the English Cottage were constructed to look and feel just like those nearly 200-year-old houses.

Architects even added structural elements intended to, quite literally, bring students together. For instance, the hallways in Norton and Lewis were divided into wings to encourage students to meet and bond in smaller, more manageable groups. In McBride and Mather, the halls were divided into short sections that turned 45 degrees or so into a different section, as a means to create “neighborhoods” in the building. (Students think they were built that way to be “riot proof.” Said Stamp: “Nope.”)

Those design elements mirror the students’ psychosocial development and growth. “Networking and creating social ties are essential parts of American colleges,” noted Carla Yanni, a Rutgers professor of architecture and author of “Living on Campus: An Architectural History of the American Dormitory.”

That’s why most first- and second-year students live in double rooms, to help hallmates form crucial new relationships. Juniors and seniors experience more independence in suites that mimic apartments they’ll likely move into after graduation. But the social ties they form from years of togetherness should follow them into the real world. Those social connections play such a vital role in the college experience, in fact, that Yanni is concerned the success of virtual learning during the pandemic could persuade some students — especially students with

Opposite page: Three new apartment-style residence halls will be constructed on South Campus. One will go to the west of Hanna Hall, one to the east of Leonard Hall and one behind Old Kenyon in the area currently occupied by Bushnell Hall. Both Bushnell and Manning Halls will be torn down.

higher financial need — to choose that route as a more affordable option. “They might get a college degree,” she said, “but a peer who lives on campus, who meets other ambitious and smart people, will have infinitely more opportunities and career success.”

While Kenyon has always committed to building consequential relationships among students, the residence structures where those bonds really take hold haven't exactly stood the test of time. One trustee put a finer point on it — “they're our Achilles' heel.” The stature and style of the buildings were surely a big part of the reason that Forbes magazine and a longtime architecture critic at *The New Yorker* (Paul Goldberger P'04), once named Kenyon one of the most beautiful campuses in the world. Inside, though, they're “in dire need of updating,” explained Garland.

Last year, the College hired a consulting firm to conduct a study of student housing needs, and here's what students said they wanted: Residences on South Campus that are closer to their classes and Peirce Dining Hall; more apartment-style residences for juniors and seniors; new construction that is environmentally responsible; and on-site laundry.

As sophomore Ever Croffoot-Suede '23 put it, the only laundry facility in the first-year quad where she is a community advisor is located in Gund Residence Hall. “It's a few machines, and to get there from Norton I have to walk down a path and around.” It's a walk she's made, laundry basket in hand, during rain, snow and thunderstorms — if she needed to access the laundry room for any reason, she had to brave the elements. “Having laundry in Norton would be incredible. I can't overstate this: Incredible.”

Students also asked for renovations to the old dorms, such as new flooring, reconfigured bathrooms and a fresh coat of paint.

These concerns were heard, and thanks to an anonymous donor's “once in a generation” gift, the College plans to build three new South Campus residence halls that will be ADA-compliant and built to a high environmental standard. Construction on the new buildings will begin as soon as work on the new West Quad is wrapped and classes end in the spring of 2023, but renovations and repairs to the older residence halls are scheduled to start as soon as this summer.

A specific intimacy

Kenyon's brick and mortar has always been a catalyst. The buildings offer access to more than dorm rooms and classrooms: they're where the connections are formed, experiences take hold and memories are set. Many alumni pinpoint their Kenyon memories to a specific room, a particular spot, a special space: Sitting on the steps of Rosse Hall late at night, after every-

where else had closed. Hanging out in a Bullseye with one of the best views of campus. Cramming way too many people into the Caples elevator.

Susan Berger '85, for instance, will never forget when she met two of the women who remain her closest friends today. During their first week at Kenyon they bonded while chilling Molson Goldens in streams of cold water from the bathroom sinks on the second floor of Gund. “I can picture us in that place like it was yesterday,” said Berger, who is a leader within a nonprofit in Cleveland.

Susan Farrell '74, a retired bank executive from Pittsburgh, and her Kenyon friends still refer to themselves as the D-8s, after their apartment number in the New Apartments. Skip Osborne '76, retired from the restaurant business in California, can connect every member of his current friend group with the place he met them on campus — “in the green room at Hill Theater,” “in the doorway of one of the old Peirce Tower suites,” “on a rain-sodden Middle Path during a gray February afternoon” and “in The Shoppes, the old coffee shop that used to be in the basement of Peirce, talking for hours over 3.2 beer and fried mushrooms.”

These happenstance connections are entirely by grand design. Roommates are handpicked and are more often matched by differences than similarities to broaden students' worldviews. Each hallway deliberately houses a diverse mix of students from varied backgrounds. A key first step in this process is ensuring these diverse backgrounds are represented on campus, a task aided by scholarships and financial aid.

When Anne Morrissey '01, a Chicago writer, and Joy Phaphouvaninh '01, who directs the study-abroad program at the University of Illinois, met in Upper Lewis Hall on their first day at Kenyon, they couldn't have been more different. Phaphouvaninh's family had escaped Laos during the Vietnam war and was brought by a Mennonite church to Ohio, where Joy was born. Still, they connected instantly. “It was like finding your lifelong friend after too many lifetimes apart,” Morrissey said.

Kenyon's residence halls have at least one common room, and often two or more. Anne B. Chamberlin '76, a retired librarian from Haver-town, Pennsylvania, remembered lounging with her husband-to-be Joel “Boltz” Turner '76 in the Watson Common Room, where “‘old-established’ senior couples went to watch weekend TV.” Liz Van Lenten '81, a Chicago real estate agent, called the Caples lobby a “conversation pit” where she regularly watched “everyone's late-night comings and goings.” Martha Holley-Miers '00, a director of fundraising at a Washington, D.C., nonprofit, credited her deep, longtime friendship with Samantha Grover Aguayo '00, a Washington, D.C.-based attorney, to the night “we stayed up late moving from couch

to couch in the common room of Bushnell.”

Even alumnus-to-be Berklich of “Kenyon on the Hudson” joked that the way Gund was built, he couldn’t enter or leave his dorm without walking through the common room: “People were constantly congregating there. It was practically impossible not to stop and talk.”

The buildings themselves help develop a sense of interconnectedness and community. “They’re meant to facilitate those unplanned meetings with other students and with faculty,” said Stamp. “Those informal moments might actually be the most important ones when you’re in college.” Because the village and the College were so small, noted Osborne, “you got a rounder sense of just about everybody. You got to know many sides of many people. You saw them at their worst and at their best.”

As a student, Alisoun Bertsch ’97 spent so much time hiking in the woods near campus that she became known as the girl who walked everywhere, on and off the Hill, all the time. When she came back for her reunion years later, she was taking a walk and a former professor and his wife hailed her from their porch: “Alisoun, welcome back! We would know your walk anywhere. Come have breakfast with us!”

“It’s such a specific intimacy — ‘I know your walk,’” reminisced Bertsch, who now lives in Athens, Pennsylvania. She considers that moment a metaphor for the College’s culture of connection — how the intimacy that develops so quickly and intensely from simply sharing the same space affects students in a deep way. “No one can keep up any artifice when you eat, sleep and study together,” she said. “You have to be your authentic self at Kenyon.”

More than a year into the pandemic, there are inklings on campus that the intimacy is starting to build again.

Even though he’s still basically working out of two offices in two separate buildings (“It’s like ‘Groundhog Day’”), Decatur is looking ahead as much as possible, and looking forward — to hopefully bringing all students back together in the fall, to having faculty and staff return from their Zoom offices at home, to inviting parents and alumni to visit the Hill again. Most of all, he can’t wait to just randomly run into people again on campus.

“At a moment where our understanding of the importance of learning together in community is perhaps more deeply felt than any time ever,” he said, “it’s incredibly exciting to reaffirm the importance of the residential experience as part of Kenyon, and look forward to a future in which we will again gather and learn together — on this campus.” ❧

Vicki Glembocki is an editorial consultant and award-winning journalist based just north of Atlanta.



What a \$100 million gift does (and does not) mean for Kenyon

First, the obvious, direct impact:

- » With this gift and the addition of **three new residence halls** on South Campus, we can boldly reaffirm our commitment to the core residential experience.
- » Plus, the net **gain of 199 beds** creates the swing space required for badly needed renovations across campus, especially to first-year residences.

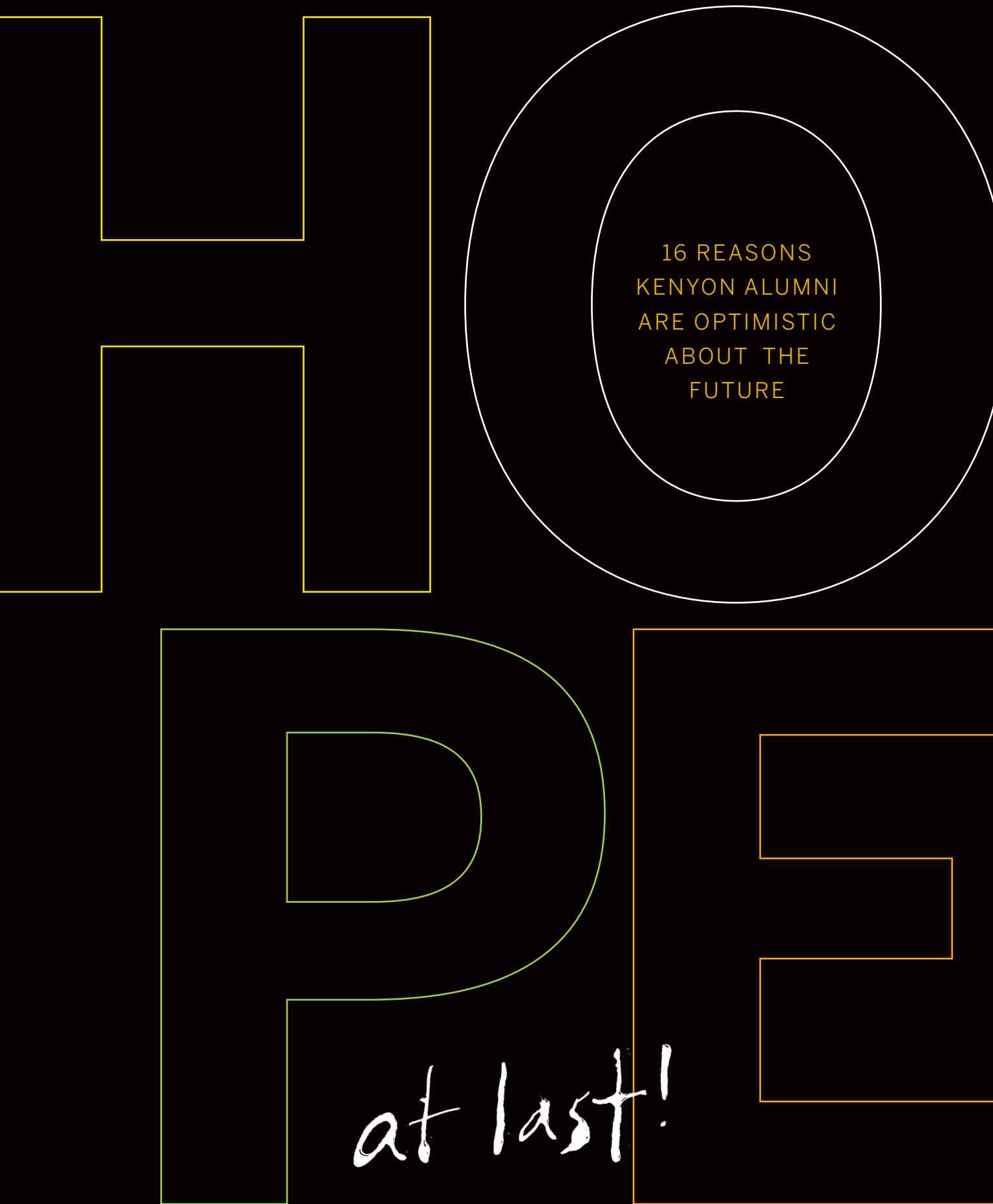
Next, the not-so-obvious but game-changing impact:

- » With critical housing needs addressed, we can **focus our fund-raising efforts on scholarships and financial aid** — ensuring that Kenyon’s residence halls and classrooms are open to talented students from every walk of life and economic background.
- » With the support of 17,947 alumni, parents and friends who pushed past the original \$300 million campaign goal five months early, we can raise our sights and continue the campaign, as **Our Path Forward to the Bicentennial**, with a new cumulative goal of \$500 million to conclude in June of 2024.

Finally, the needs that remain:

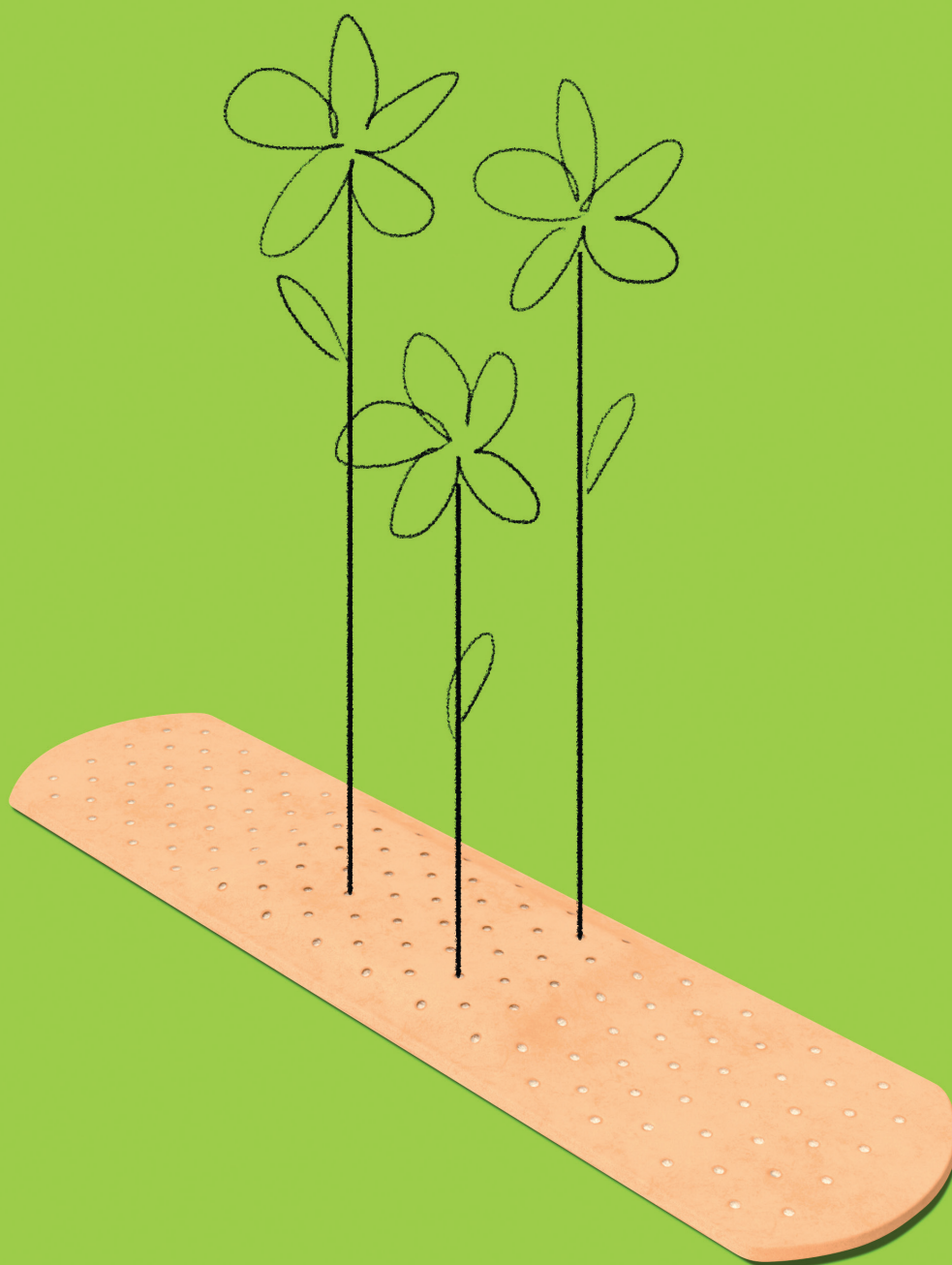
- » What the **\$100 million does not do** is directly offset any of the College’s nearly \$163 million operating budget. Those dollars come from tuition, payout from the endowment, and donations to the Kenyon Fund, Kenyon Parents Fund and other annual funds. Because almost \$44 million of the operating budget goes to financial aid, annual fund gifts are the most immediate way to support students.
- » Annual fund gifts remain a key campaign goal, at approximately \$6.7 million a year. They also provide the **flexibility needed to navigate crises like COVID-19**, which caused an estimated revenue loss of \$32 million this fiscal year (a number also unaffected by the \$100 million).

— MOLLY VOGEL ’00



16 REASONS
KENYON ALUMNI
ARE OPTIMISTIC
ABOUT THE
FUTURE

at last!



BY ELIZABETH WEINSTEIN

ILLUSTRATIONS BY EDMON DEHARO

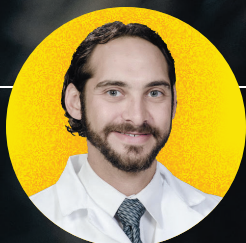
Looking back on the past year, it can be challenging to remember anything but the hardships we have endured.

From the big things — a deadly pandemic, an economic crisis and an overdue reckoning with systemic racism and oppression — to the daily stressors brought on by life in lockdown, there's still so much left to process.

Yet scattered amid the chaos are seeds of hope.

"We can think about hope as a state of being," explained Assistant Professor of Psychology Leah Dickens, a social psychologist who studies the functions of emotions in everyday life. "Hope can help us cope with our current situation because we believe that things will be better in the future."

With that in mind, we asked alumni in fields ranging from environmental studies and clean energy, to emergency medicine and financial technology, what's making them hopeful about real issues affecting our world. Here's what they had to say about finding — and creating — hope in some unexpected places.



"Emergency medical and critical-care team members are canaries in the coal mine. When we are understaffed and overworked, when there is no staff to triage patients, when more and more patients are piling up at the emergency department door, the system breaks down, then people break down."

We have learned how important clear and honest communication is in a crisis.

BRADLEY DREIFUSS '01 is the director of rural and global emergency medicine programs at the University of Arizona College of Medicine at Tucson, and a co-founder of HCW HOSTED, Inc., a nonprofit dedicated to supporting healthcare workers and their families during the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond.

Last June, the New York Times published an op-ed by Dreifuss, an emergency physician, titled "I'm a Health Care Worker. You Need to Know How Close We Are to Breaking." He wrote the essay after finishing his ninth consecutive overnight shift at the hospital, at the peak of the pandemic's destruction in Arizona.

"Seeing everything come to fruition that we had been warning against, and seeing what it was doing to my staff, I was like, 'Okay, something needs articulating because no one's talking about how we're doing, or why we're not doing well,'" he said.

The writing process itself was a "release" for Dreifuss, but the overwhelming expressions of solidarity and support he received from readers made him realize just "how important our social sciences and communication skills are for

managing disaster situations."

"During the COVID-19 crisis, we accomplished amazing scientific feats with record speed, but we failed when it came to communications, logistics and human behavior," he explained.

To help ease the burden on health-care workers, he and his wife, Heather Dreifuss '99, co-founded HCW HOSTED, a nonprofit whose mission is to build technology and community-based services that enable health-care organizations to ensure health-care worker, family and community well-being.

"I never realized what a resilience factor it is for people to feel like they're making a difference," he said of the volunteers and donors who have supported the organization, "When we build vehicles for people to get involved and try to make a difference, it points their anxiety in a useful direction."

Going forward, he added, "I hope that we realize that the behaviors we model, and our actions, as well as our words, all have consequences, both positive and negative. I hope we move away our rugged individualism and realize that we're all interconnected, and require a strong sense of health citizenship."

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We're taking real steps to protect children — and support survivors of abuse.

VICTORIA HOUGHAM '04 is managing director of Zero Abuse Project.

When Hougham began working as a clinical social worker 15 years ago, she noticed that organizations serving abuse victims and survivors were disconnected and siloed from other areas of social work.

One silver lining of the pandemic: “Now there is more of an understanding that preventing child maltreatment, creating work environments that are harassment-free, and believing and supporting loved ones who have experienced abuse is a responsibility for all,” Hougham said.

The need for collective responsibility is particularly relevant when considering child maltreatment cases over the past year, she explained. “The majority of child abuse and neglect reports come from mandated reporters such as teachers and doctors. Due to the pandemic, these professionals saw children much less frequently in person,” she added. “The welfare of children cannot rest solely on educators and medical professionals. Something that this past year has shown is how critical it is for everyone who intersects with children and goes inside homes (home inspectors, plumbers, faith leaders, etc.) to help protect children.”

Hougham is particularly hopeful about the strides being made in the child protection field. The pandemic has forced everyone to innovate and rethink processes and priorities. Technological capabilities in child protection efforts and support services for survivors continue to grow. “Over the past year we have learned that when our communities take steps together, we can collectively create safer spaces for our kids,” she said. “We all have a call to action to end child abuse in the U.S.”

Another cause for optimism is “an increasing understanding that widespread exploitation of children is not inevitable,” she added. “Child abuse can and will be ended, and the prerequisite innovation and hard work are well underway.”



“It has been gratifying to see the people I worked with during my 35-year career at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) become public health rock stars. I believe in their resolve to improve public health and applaud their hard work in a profession that by design brings up the next generation, grooming young scientists to carry the mantle.”

— **KRISTIN OLSEN KISER '79 P '15**, Chevy Chase, Maryland



Technology is providing more access to personal financial tools.

JOHN PITTS '02 is head of policy for Plaid — a data network that powers fintech tools — where he works to protect consumers' rights to access and use their financial data.

The last decade has seen an explosion of new financial technology (fintech) that, according to Pitts, is fundamentally changing the entire financial-services sector by “putting the consumer at the center of their own financial life.” Apps and services like Venmo, Betterment, Acorns and Square make it easier for consumers to handle their own banking, investing and spending with the ease of a computer mouse click or smartphone finger swipe.

These apps owe their existence to section 1033 of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act, which passed in response to the 2008 financial crisis and gives consumers the right to access and share their financial information, Pitts explained. “It was such a huge, profound change, and no one realized it at the time,” he said. “It used to be that the bank controlled consumers' finances, and they'd get whatever products the bank wanted to offer. If you wanted something else, you needed to move to a different bank.”

The future, Pitts believes, “looks like people who have traditionally been excluded from financial services actually being included, for real, in a way that they never have been before.”

5

We can see a future with dramatically fewer gun deaths.

LIZ DUNNING '99 is vice president of development for Brady United to End Gun Violence.

"My mom was shot and killed in 2003, when I was just 26. Her murder went unsolved for years," Dunning said, describing the tragedy that upended her world. Her mother's killer was finally identified in 2014, but not before he killed two more people. He was convicted on Nov. 2, 2015, and, in 2017, Dunning ran a marathon to honor her mother on what would have been her 70th birthday. She raised around \$30,000 for Brady United to End Gun Violence through a campaign she called Run Lizzie Run.

She joined the team at Brady in 2019 and now leads fundraising efforts for the grassroots organization, helping connect donors with its public health approach to ending gun violence. As defined by the Centers for Disease Control, a public health approach consists of defining and monitoring the problem, identifying risks and protective factors, developing and testing prevention strategies and ensuring widespread adoption and implementation.

"We now have an incredible gun violence prevention champion (President Joe Biden) in the White House and gun violence prevention majorities in both houses of Congress," she said. "This means that our federal lawmakers now are closer to mirroring the people they represent: 90+ percent of Americans want expanded background checks and roughly 60 percent believe we ought to ban assault weapons."

Because of this, Dunning said she's hopeful that "we're closer than ever before to delivering a world that can grow safer and not more dangerous for the kids, including mine, who are growing into it, even as we work to ensure that the intersection of racial justice and gun violence is fully understood and expressed."

Her mother's murder, she added, was "an inflection point in my life — there is no path by which I reclaim the lightness of the person I was before. ... Honoring those we've lost with action might be the clearest definition of hope — that belief that we can create a better world."



6

"Consumers today are much more engaged, empowered and connected with tools for direct protest and reform. There's a long way to go, but Gen-Z'ers have grown up expecting businesses to be public with their ethics, or face the consequences."

— **TAMSIN SMITH '88**, founder and president of Slipstream Strategy, San Francisco

7

"I believe consumers have a new appreciation for the food, beverage and hospitality industries. We never looked holistically at how fortunate we were to have so many experiential opportunities all around us, and then those experiences got taken away overnight. Hopefully now we will cherish all the hard work that restaurateurs and workers put in day after day to create places of gathering for all to enjoy."

— **BRADFORD REYNOLDS '07**, chief financial officer of Blaze Pizza, in Pasadena, California

8

"We now have the biggest institutions in the world throwing money at our industry, saying, 'Go faster!' We're going to wake up in five years and Americans are going to want more renewables, clean fuels and electric vehicles. And those will be their jobs, making those things."

— **SHELDON KIMBER '99**, founder and CEO of Intersect Power, of Truckee, California



Engineers are building tools for a better world.

ATUL VARMA '01 is lead engineer and “tinkerer” at JustFix.nyc.

Varma first learned about New York City’s housing crisis by reading a 2017 article in the New York Review of Books. “I was really affected by that article because I just couldn’t imagine the idea of growing up in a household where we were being constantly evicted, unable to afford the rent and always having to move from place to place,” he said. “It seemed like this terrible tragedy, but I didn’t know what I could do to help.”

Varma realized that it’s easy for landlords to evict their tenants because they have access to websites that function like Amazon’s “one-click” shopping — like “one-click evictions” for landlords. And while it is possible for tenants to sue their landlord when a rental is not meeting basic safety standards, doing so involves a byzantine process, he explained.

In 2018, Varma started working for a small non-profit startup called JustFix.nyc that was actually trying to address the housing crisis. Working

closely with designers, engineers, housing organizers, tenant advocates and lawyers, Varma enjoys thinking about engineering in a way that extends beyond the question, “How do we do this as efficiently as possible?” It’s more important, he said, “to make sure that we are building the right things, and not just building the things right.”

When he started at JustFix.nyc, “landlords were doing lots of things that made it difficult for renters to hold them accountable,” he said. “There are laws in place in New York that give tenants rights, but the government doesn’t necessarily have the resources to enforce them.” Landlords have also found ways to evade detection, like hiding behind LLCs to make it seem like they only own one building, when they are actually part of a company that owns 80 buildings.

JustFix.nyc developed a tool called Who Owns What, where you can enter any address and quickly see everything else your landlord owns. It also created a tool that makes it easier for tenants to sue their landlords, leveling the playing field for renters, so to speak.





HBCU FACTS

25%

of African American graduates with STEM degrees come from HBCUs.

101

HBCUs are located in 19 states, the District of Columbia and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

51

of those 101 HBCUs are public institutions, and

50

are private.

3%

of the country's colleges and universities are HBCUs; they enroll

10%

of all African American students and produce almost

20%

of all African American graduates.

Sources: UNCF,
2018 NCES fact sheet

Historically Black Colleges and Universities are receiving overdue support for the important work they do.

GIUSEPPE "SEPPY" BASILI '83
is executive director of the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation.

"I've always known the incredible work that historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs) do," said Basili. "I didn't understand all of the challenges they face."

Recently, he has spent a lot of time learning more about how we can tackle systemic racism — "specifically, how hard it is for historically black colleges and universities to catch up to other institutions' endowments," he explained. "If you were to add up the endowments of every HBCU in the U.S., the total number would be less than the \$1.6 billion that Michael Bloomberg donated to Johns Hopkins University in 2018 alone."

The tide is shifting, however. Philanthropist Mackenzie Scott has made headlines by



providing large grants specifically to a number of HBCUs, and in the corporate world, businesses like Duke Power and Walmart are stepping up and making financial commitments to support HBCUs. And, according to Basili, for the first time, the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation will be making philanthropic investments in leading institutions that graduate the largest number of African American STEM majors in the country.

"Usually when an event happens like the murder of George Floyd, there are protests and calls for change, but I haven't always seen money flow in the same way," he said. "This is the first time I've seen something really stick and have both groundswell support, and also institutional and foundational level support, at every level. It gives me great hope."



Telehealth has made therapy more accessible to families.

ANDREW RICHARDS '79 is a clinical psychologist at Boston Children's Hospital and co-manager of Boston House, a home-away-from-home for children with cancer and their families.

In his psychology practice, Richards works with “a lot of kids who have things like ADHD, anxiety and trauma, and all of those things really contribute to kids being distracted. When they're in my office and are distracted, we can play a game of UNO or something like that while also having a conversation,” he said. “But with virtual therapy sessions, that's certainly been a challenge. It's forced me to get really creative. I went into doing virtual visits kicking and screaming, but in some ways it has been a real service to my patients.”

In the past, he noted, “a mom might bring her 9-year-old boy for therapy with me, but would also have to bring the 6-year-old brother and 3-year-old. They'd all take a train and a bus and then walk to the clinic, and then do it all over again going home. A 15-minute appointment could turn out to be a three-hour ordeal. The pandemic has made it much easier for families who I work with to get the care their kids need, and that's a really good thing.”



More of us are doing the work to become antiracist.

EMILY VINCENT '02 is the founder of Facing Race in Arlington/ White Folks Facing Race, in Arlington, Virginia.

This past summer, nonfiction books such as “So You Want To Talk About Race” by Ijeoma Oluo, “How To Be An Antiracist” by Ibram X. Kendi, and “Waking Up White: And Finding Myself in the Story of Race” by Kenyon alumna Debby Irving '83 consistently dominated the New York Times and Amazon best sellers lists. For many white Americans, it was a summer of awakening, or re-awakening, to the systemic racism and anti-Black oppression around them. And some, like Vincent, are helping guide others through the process. Vincent founded Facing Race in Arlington in 2017 as a way to connect community members who are working on becoming more antiracist.

“I had been doing my own self-work for several years and I hoped to find others in my community who were also interested in unlearning white supremacy together,” she said. “I was very pleased to find many others. I intentionally chose not to make the group an official organization because I could see that there were already existing organizations doing this important work and my goal instead was to help connect them to each other and to the broader community.”

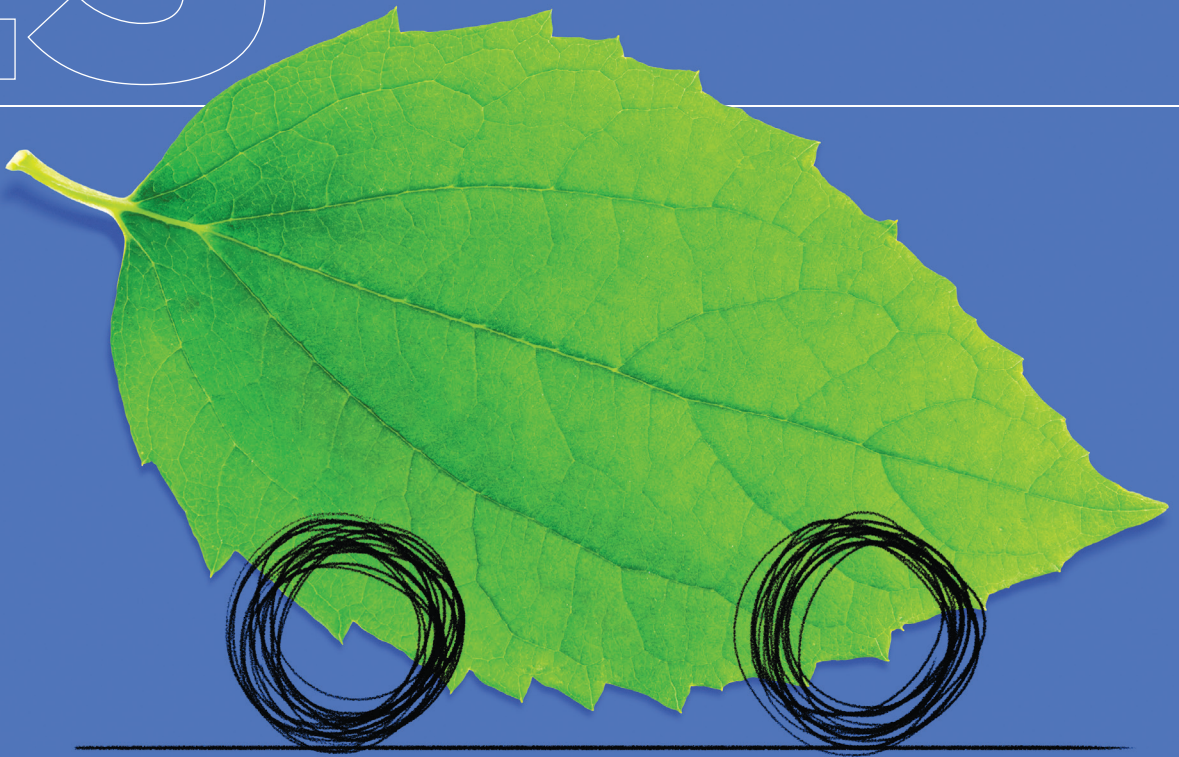
Doing this work can be challenging, but she is motivated by her academic background in history, “which reminds me that humanity has survived and thrived in many dire situations in the past,” she said.

One of her favorite sayings that she uses with her kids all the time is, “You can't eat an elephant all at once.” It applies to antiracism as well.

“Every little bite we take, every step forward, every new thing learned, every conversation with someone about this topic advances our progress,” Vincent said.

“Because I am white,” she added, “I know that I can choose to stop doing this work. Hope for me means sticking with the work even though my survival doesn't depend on it, because my antiracist colleagues of color do not have the same choice.”





Renewable energy efforts continue to gather speed.

LINCOLN BLEVEANS '89 is executive director of sustainability and energy management at Stanford University.

Bleveans has worked in the global energy industry for over 25 years, focusing on electric power and sustainability, and has had a front-row seat to the highs — and dramatic lows — of climate change. Yet, he's optimistic that a cleaner, healthier future for our planet is within reach.

"The last four years have been incredibly frustrating in many ways, but the silver lining is that when you look at the adoption of renewable energy, there's barely a hiccup," he said. "The pace of innovation has not slowed down at all and that tells me that there's momentum, which comes out of knowledge and passion, and it is unstoppable. That gives tremendous hope that we can do this."

He's convinced that the energy industry "is going to change more over the next decade than it has in the last century, not the least in terms of humans' interactions with energy," he said, because "renewable energy used to be at the

edge of the conversation and now it's fundamental — it's at the center of the conversation."

Bleveans predicts that electric vehicles will become less expensive and easier to use. As more customers switch from gas to electric cars, production of greenhouse gases will tumble, creating what he calls a "virtuous cycle" that directly improves our quality of life.

"Imagine if you took 90% of internal combustion engine vehicles and made them electric," he said. "Public health outcomes for neighborhoods near freeways would get so much better. Less affluent residents' economic outcomes and health outcomes would improve; their kids would perform better in school, and, without the noisy drone of engines all the time, their property values would increase."

Over the next 10 years, he sees "renewable energy just becoming energy, and electric vehicles just becoming vehicles," he explained. "I think we're rapidly going to get to a point where we don't have to use the adjectives anymore."

Hope, he added, drives us forward: "Without hope, there's no reason to innovate — to work on something now that isn't going to bear fruit for years, decades or centuries."



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"In my university, we are working toward requiring all students to take coursework that focuses on race and racism, similar to other requirements related to developing quantitative and writing skills. For me, hope means helping students see and challenge their own biases, and educating students on how to be antiracist."

— **ZORNITSA KALIBATSEVA '08**,
assistant professor of psychology at Stockton University in New Jersey

15

"There's something really special about the residential college experience. We know it is transformative. We know it works. And it has become increasingly important to me to figure out how we can bring this education to spaces where it hasn't been."

— **ADRIENNE AMADOR ODDI '09**,
dean of admissions and financial aid at Trinity College

16

We're smashing the stigma around mental illness.

ROWANA ABBENSETTS-DOBSON '13 is the founder of Spoken Black Girl Publishing.

When a teenage Abbensetts-Dobson was first diagnosed with anxiety and depression, she struggled to find resources, on or offline, that reflected her experiences as a Black woman navigating these conditions.

After graduating from Kenyon, Abbensetts-Dobson worked in the publishing industry and "came to realize that publishing has a long track record of having diversity issues," she said. "I was inside discovering where some of these issues were coming from — why there was such a lack of representation."

So she started a blog, Spoken Black Girl, where she wrote about mental health — including her own struggles with depression and anxiety.

Spoken Black Girl became the container for her writing career, as well as its own business, where she publishes stories and hosts workshops on mental health, wellness and self-care, centering on stories of women of color.

Over the past decade, she said, younger voices have joined the conversation, and they, especially, are helping dismantle the stigma around talking publicly about mental health.

"Millennials and Gen-Z folks tend to be really progressive on mental health," she said. "Social media has made it very accessible — almost trendy — to talk about mental health and self-care in a way that's not stigmatizing. And over the past couple of years, the wellness industry has really taken off in a lot of ways. So I think there's a profit side to it as well."

The uncertainty of 2020, Abbensetts-Dobson added, has inspired many people to reflect on what they really want from life and how they can improve. "One of the first things that people turn to is improving their mental health," she said, "because without that, it's really hard to improve on anything else." κ



FACT

According to the Anxiety and Depression Association of America, Black Americans are

20%

more likely to experience serious mental health problems than the general population.

Bulletin

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Spring Fever

Sarah Siegel '23 (left) from North Salem, New York, and Lucy Adams '23, from Lake Oswego, Oregon, walk down Middle Path on a warm spring afternoon.

BROOKE LAVALLEY





Seeing in Both Directions

Bryan Doerries found comfort in the ancient Greek tragedies he studied in college. Here's how he has helped thousands of viewers do the same.

BY MARY KEISTER | PHOTO BY JORDAN HOLLENDER

Bryan Doerries '98 H'17 wants to bring up the lights on his audience. It's not just that the dimming of the lights on the audience — a common practice in what is now considered traditional theater, a theater he calls “commodified by capitalism” — has the effect of erasing the audience in an attempt to maintain a spotlight on the stage.

Bulletin | Profile



On a roll: Doerries skateboards with his 10-year-old daughter Abigail in front of artist Lexi Bella's "RBG" mural in the East Village's First Street Green Park, in New York City.

For Doerries, co-founder of Theater of War Productions, it's about the legislation of expression. What does it mean when we give authority to actors instead of those who have come to be moved by their performance? When we privilege the story being told, but not its response, rippling through those who hear it?

An amphitheater is what he's after: "And amphi, theatron, in Greek, means the place where we see in both directions. I see you, and you see me."

Doerries, who majored in classics at Kenyon, has deployed this amphitheater model to remarkable acclaim for nearly a dozen years with Theater of War Productions, a social impact company known for presenting dramatic readings of ancient texts as a catalyst for powerful, guided conversations about various societal traumas. Aided by a corps of more than 200 actors including Frances McDormand, Bill Murray, Jeffrey Wright and Samira Wiley, Theater of War Productions has performed for more than 300,000 people across six continents, with

"Even if you don't have direct proximity, your basic humanity affords you the right to be speaking."

— Bryan Doerries '98 H'17

performances typically tailored for a specific audience: veterans, correctional officers, health care providers, communities affected by natural disasters and myriad others. The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation recently awarded the company a \$1 million grant to support its work.

This academic year, the company has been in virtual residency at Kenyon, staging four productions and hosting workshops with faculty and students. The residency emerged through the recommendation of a working group including faculty, students and staff that formed in summer 2020 to consider programming for the 2020–21 academic year; with some students studying remotely and others on campus, the group aimed to keep its community connected as much as possible.

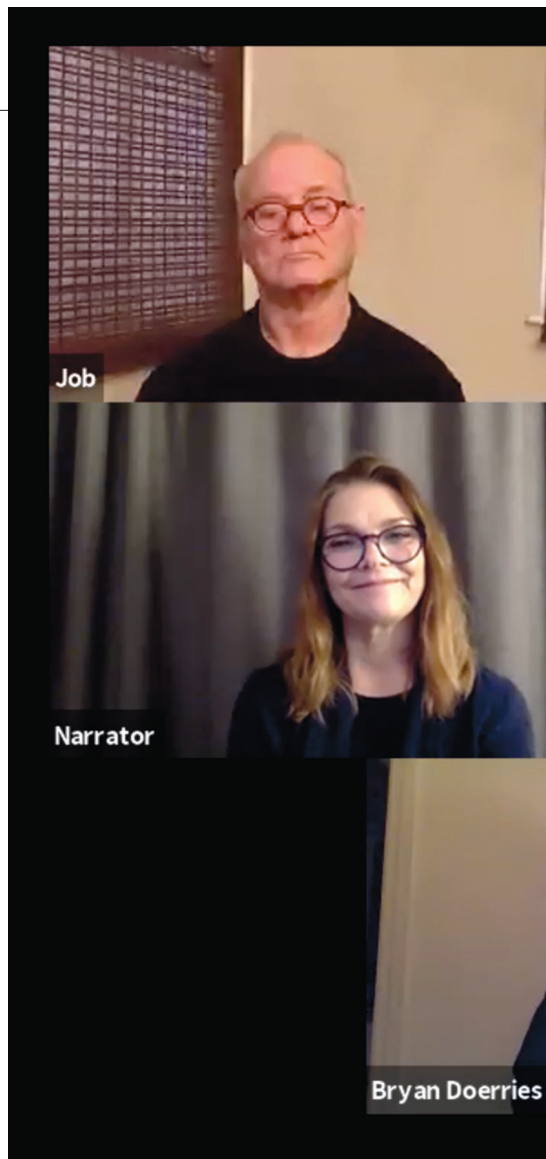
"We asked: What could we do that's a little bit different and focused on some really important social, cultural and political issues? Bryan's work proved appealing because it takes performances of fairly well-known works and turns the lens of those onto really significant contemporary issues," said Associate Provost of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Ted Mason, professor of English and senior advisor to the president, who

chaired the programming working group.

The residency's productions addressed a range of issues: racialized violence and police brutality; the effects of COVID-19 on individuals and communities; challenges faced by frontline workers; homelessness and poverty. And they ultimately engaged more than Kenyon's community; productions also involved members of the Ohio Five consortium and residents of Knox County, including Mount Vernon Mayor Matthew T. Starr, who acted in several performances.

While the COVID-19 pandemic forced the company to reconsider its method of presentation — "We've been calling [Zoom] the digital amphitheater of late," Doerries said — in many ways, the collective traumas of the pandemic and the inequities it highlighted have only made the company's work more urgent.

"If you're looking for a company that was going to thrive during a pandemic that's compounded by all kinds of other related issues of racism and health-care inequality and state violence, you wouldn't have to look much further than a company like ours," Doerries said, acknowledging this immense blessing, to be able to thrive in such





difficult times. “I can’t remember a year more productive than this one, except for our first year of existence, when we came out of the gates.”

Stages of healing

Doerries co-founded Theater of War Productions in 2009, 11 years after graduating from Kenyon, eight years after earning an M.F.A. in theater directing from the University of California, Irvine, and six years after losing his girlfriend, Laura Rothenberg, to cystic fibrosis after caring for her in the final months of her life. “For weeks after her death,” Doerries wrote in his 2015 memoir “The Theater of War,” “all I wanted to do was talk about it to anyone who would listen.

“But after her memorial, fewer and fewer people wanted to hear the story. Nevertheless, I kept telling it — in all its graphic detail — even as people seemed to recoil from the manic intensity of my monologue.”

In his grief, Doerries turned to a familiar source of comfort: the ancient Greek tragedies he had studied at Kenyon, whose characters had undergone immense suffering to which he could now profoundly relate. His healing journey sparked a

thought that would simmer: Could the Greeks help ease the suffering of others who were afflicted?

In the years after Laura’s death, Doerries worked by day at an arts nonprofit in New York and by night as an aspiring theater director staging productions of his own translations of classic plays, including “Philoctetes.” The story, about a warrior bitten by a snake and abandoned for nearly a decade by his peers on a desert island, spoke to Doerries for its depiction of chronic illness and the toll it takes on both patients and caregivers. After a reading of the play off Broadway, Doerries was invited to present to students and faculty at Cornell University’s Weill Medical College; thus was born “The Philoctetes Project,” a predecessor to Theater of War Productions.

Soon after that production, Doerries read a 2007 Washington Post article about neglect and mistreatment at Walter Reed Army Medical Center and noticed parallels between the plight of the veterans and the story of Philoctetes. What if, he thought, military members could benefit from the healing powers of the text, too?

Who else could he reach? Who else might be touched?

Celebrity squares:

A virtual production of “The Book of Job Project” was performed on Dec. 6, 2020, and featured the following actors: From top left Bill Murray, Nyasha Hatendi, Marjolaine Goldsmith; Middle row, Kathryn Erbe, David Strathairn, Frankie Faison; Bottom row, Bryan Doerries and Matthew T. Starr.



“What do you think trauma sounds like? Do you think it sounds like pithy aphorisms? Like maxims?”

— Bryan Doerries '98 H'17

Creating new hierarchies

As the company grew over the next dozen years, its name changed and its audiences expanded — from health care providers and veterans to, really, any community affected by trauma — but its productions have stayed remarkably true to their original format. After a reading of the chosen text, Doerries facilitates a discussion with panelists carefully chosen for their proximity to the issue they are discussing; a February panel after a “Madness of Hercules” presentation, aimed at addressing gun violence, included the father of a child killed in the Sandy Hook shootings. Doerries then invites the audience to join in a guided conversation.

“Our entire society, our entire world, is predicated on this sort of notion of authority and power. We’re after creating these new hierarchies, these new types of environments where what affords you the opportunity to speak is not your privilege, is not your education, is not your race or whom you love, any of those things, it’s your proximity,” Doerries said. “And even if you don’t have direct proximity, just your basic humanity affords you the right to be speaking.”

Doerries drew upon the structure of Athenian

theater when designing these post-performance conversations. Amphitheaters, he explained, were places where citizens could escape the isolation of their struggles and be in community, shoulder to shoulder, acknowledging their burdens together. In Doerries’ view, that’s what the Greeks intended for their texts: They were always meant to be staged and experienced, not read on the page in solitude. Their power comes from the live performance, and the communal intake and interpretation by the audience.

Theater of War Productions’ model has created a space that allows for a freedom of conversation, said Bayla Kamens ’22, a classics major from Boston who has participated in a number of the company’s post-performance audience discussions. Kamens first came to Theater of War by way of the company’s October performance of “Antigone in Ferguson” (part of the company’s virtual Kenyon residency). They kept coming back to listen and engage, drawn by both the quality of Doerries’ translations and the powerful conversations that were held.

“It’s really well-facilitated. Everything stays calm and welcoming, even when people are disagreeing or saying things that you don’t think are on point. That’s an important part of their formula, that everybody can come and speak and say what they want. And it seems like that really happens,” Kamens said.

At the same time, they added, “People should know going in that it is a safe space in the sense that you can say whatever you want to say, but it’s a brave space in the sense that you’ll be in a room with people saying things that could be hurtful to you. It’s on the audience and the people involved in the conversation to respond to that in the moment. Maybe you’re not ready to go into a space where people are allowed to say anything they want about this work and anything about this issue — but if you can, it’s a good opportunity.”

Student audiences often generate particularly deep conversations, Doerries said: “When we’ve performed for students, particularly 18- and 19-year-olds, they were as good in their sensitivity and openness and willingness to share as audiences that had gone to war or experienced trauma. They were in touch with their own reactions and relationships to these performances in ways that would attune the rest of the room. Young people can attune us to what we should be listening to, because they have yet to succumb to the standardizing pressure of adult life to the point where they are no longer in touch with their own feelings.”

Listening with the intent to hear

So how does Doerries keep these audience discussions from going off the rails?

Experience helps: After nearly a dozen years with this production model, Theater of War

Productions' staff has developed an acute sense of how to keep conversations on track. "We have an inside joke that we know a conversation is going south when someone says the word 'duality,'" Doerries said. "When someone says something that sounds sort of pseudo-intellectual, we understand that all of a sudden, boy, this thing has moved in a direction that is the opposite of where we hoped."

From the start, Doerries and his chosen panelists use intense modeling to demonstrate what it means to be honest and vulnerable in a public space. "Our best panelists stammer. Our best panelists don't have their words. Our best panelists, they don't say things they've said a thousand times before. They take the risk of being present with their thoughts, and in so doing, model the kind of candor of openness that we're asking of the audience in return."

But a bigger part of the equation, perhaps, is based on trust that the audience will be comfortable with getting uncomfortable. Doerries professes a strong belief "in the emotional intelligence of the audience," in the ability of attendees to listen to someone's thoughts and be able to make a genuine, authentic connection, without falling into snap judgments. Listening with the intent to hear, or to validate, differs from listening with the intent to react.

Sometimes, this model leads to profoundly awkward gaps in the conversational flow. Doerries will let a comment linger before moving on, or he will patiently wait as someone circles around, and around, with their words.

"We have people who get up and just go on forever, and that sometimes really annoys people. But I always say to those people who get annoyed, what do you think trauma sounds like? Do you think it sounds like pithy aphorisms? Like maxims? People who have experienced trauma have been dislocated from their sense of time. They have no idea how long they should be speaking for or if they've been going on for too long. So if we're really here to bear witness to trauma and to have that inform our understanding of each other and these ancient texts, we've got to be ready to listen to some people who might not be able to self-regulate while they're talking, and help them sometimes — in subtle ways, that don't embarrass or humiliate them — wrap up. But never interrupt them. And never condescend to them for not speaking in perfect sentences or being succinct," Doerries said.

These values underpin all of Theater of War Productions' endeavors: Everyone's interpretation of a text holds water. Everyone's personal experience holds true. Everyone has a right to be heard (time permitting). The ways people express themselves should not be legislated.

To Doerries, it's not about the texts, despite his enduring love for these classic stories. He's

more interested in how people use the texts as a tool to build "a bridge of humanity," to connect with others in loss, frustration, grief. To see that they don't have to be alone in their suffering, nor separate themselves from that suffering in order to move forward.

"There's been this myth, both in academia but also in Western culture, that you cannot have a rational and rigorous conversation while being emotional. That those two things are oppositional," Doerries said. "But what Theater of War Productions' model puts forth is that it's not just possible, it is requisite, it is necessary. If we are going to be talking about Black and brown suffering, or the fate of immigrants, or any of the issues that we've come to talk about, we must be grounded in the emotional and the spiritual consequences of our policy decisions, or our relationship to state violence. We can't have this conversation simply in a vacuum, within a think tank, within an ivory tower. We have to be grounded in something visceral."

A dawning consciousness

Theater of War Productions considers itself a "live-only" company: With few exceptions, it does not release recordings of its presentations for public viewing after they have concluded. This comports with the traditional structure of Athenian theater, but it also speaks to what Doerries sees as a growing commodification of the theatergoing experience. The work of grappling with societal ills cannot, in his view, be treated as a checklist. It must be done in full view, in full light, both inside and away from the amphitheater.

"What does it mean to have an exchange that can't be consumed? I don't want people coming to 'Antigone in Ferguson' and saying, 'I watched that play about racialized violence; now I can move on with my life,'" Doerries said. "I want people to come to the experience and say 'holy shit, I came in with all these presumptions, and they were all challenged, and upended, and I don't actually know left from right, and it's more problematic and it's more complicated than I ever thought it to be.'"

"That dawning consciousness can't just be acquired by going to a play. The rest is hard work that you have to do. And that's where I see our work. It's not social justice or therapy, it's just a door through which people can walk all kinds of paths. And some people don't walk very far. But I can't begin to tell you the number of people who have reported back to us where they've gone because of the experience of the door opening for them because of our performance.

"What if in the academy we treated every exchange we had about humanistic texts with reverence for the fact that the stakes could be that high? What new things would be possible?" ❧



ABIGAIL ESMAN '82 | FEATURED BOOK

Rage: Narcissism, Patriarchy, and the Culture of Terrorism

THOUGH SHE NORMALLY SPLITS HER TIME BETWEEN New York and the Netherlands, journalist and essayist Abigail Esman '82 has spent much of the past year in New York City — the same place she spent months before the pandemic, working on her latest book, “Rage: Narcissism, Patriarchy, and the Culture of Terrorism” (Potomac Books/University of Nebraska Press). In “Rage,” Esman uses her expertise to demonstrate how terrorists and domestic abusers often have personality traits in common, share related belief systems and have similar adverse childhood experiences.

New York City is also where the seeds of “Rage” were planted two decades ago.

“I was in New York on 9/11 and had recently gotten out of a relationship with an abusive partner,” Esman said. “In the days after the attack, I noticed everyone around the city was frightened, flinching at sudden sounds and movements. No one knew who was dangerous or when another attack would come. I realized everyone was responding to terrorism the same way I’d been responding to being in an abusive relationship.”

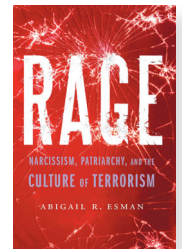
The threads between terrorism and domestic violence — the narcissism of the perpetrators, the response to shame with displays of power, the culture of honor, the misogyny and the dysfunctional family dynamics, just to name a few — began weaving together in Esman’s mind then and continued to do so the more she wrote and researched “Rage.” Drawing comparisons between O.J. Simpson, Osama Bin Laden, Dylann Roof and others, Esman demonstrates how a propensity toward narcissism leads to violence, and, when coupled with radicalization and opportunity, can result in death and destruction.

Though terrorism and radicalization are professional areas of expertise for Esman, “Rage” goes much deeper. While meticulously researched, the book reads like a memoir. Having survived two abusive relationships, she describes her own experiences of trauma intimately, lending insight that someone from the outside looking in wouldn’t be able to provide.

“Normally, when writing, I shut myself in and do little conversing or interacting with other people. I have to cut myself off and be in my own world. There were some chapters that wrote themselves and other chapters where I read journals and letters I’d kept from the time I was in those abusive relationships.”

One thing that can be especially challenging for abuse survivors to confront is how they came to accept “the new normal” — a point at which they don’t register the pain being inflicted on them and begin to think of the abuse they’re suffering as “just the way things are.” On a larger scale, Esman shows, that’s how the world responds to terrorism.

“I think it’s part of why President Trump got as far as he did,” Esman said. “He didn’t start out



**Rage:
Narcissism,
Patriarchy, and
the Culture of
Terrorism**

*By Abigail
Esman '82*

with an insurrection. If he had, people might have seen his insidious behavior for what it was.”

Both the normalization of violence that becomes domestic abuse and the radicalization toward terrorism often happen in private spheres — in the home or insular communities that uphold cultures of honor. But it is as true for entire cultures abroad — where honor killings take place and terrorist attacks are planned against westernized countries, as it is right here. In the U.S., where homegrown domestic terrorists, often motivated by the same sense of honor, carry out violence in the name of nativism and white supremacy. Since perpetrators of violence are produced in private spheres away from the public eye, it makes one wonder, how do you reach people in insular communities to make them understand that no sense of honor can legitimize violence?

“It can take generations, but I think change is happening now. It’s one of the effects of globalization and the internet: Middle Eastern women are getting access to new, Western ideas. Although sometimes the internet can also be dangerous for women.” Esman paused, recalling the online ISIS recruiters she details in “Rage,” who lure girls and women into lives as jihadist wives, subject to untold acts of domestic violence before being made to support acts of terrorism. “But these women are gaining rights a little at a time, and it’s making a difference. That’s why we need to support these women, do outreach, support nongovernmental organizations that work with women and prioritize human rights.”

According to Esman, prioritizing women’s rights isn’t vital only for countries in the Middle East, Africa and Asia, but for the U.S. as well.

“When I was a girl and we were taught sex-ed in school, the girls were taken to a different room to learn how to put a sanitary napkin on a teddy bear. Nowhere did we hear that it’s not okay for a boy to treat you in this way, that they shouldn’t hit you,” she said.

As important as it is for children to be taught how to identify these patterns of behavior so they don’t come to think abuse is normal, it’s equally important to teach children alternatives to violence, she explained.

Despite the challenges and against the odds, rehabilitation for terrorists and domestic abusers is possible. Esman sat down with reformed terrorists and a reformed white supremacist to discuss what led to the change in their belief systems. For Jason Walters, one former terrorist Esman spoke to, watching “Schindler’s List” in prison shifted his entire mindset. And that, she said, can be key. “Arts education is a phenomenal tool. Reading books and making art creates a capacity for abstraction, and abstract thinking is necessary for empathy. That’s something I’ve always believed — since my Kenyon years.”

Even after researching and writing about the myriad horrors documented in “Rage,” Esman remains hopeful. “We’re heading in the right direction,” she said. “I’m optimistic that the more we learn and understand, the more we can heal.”

— MANDY SHUNNARAH



On March 31, 2021, a group of ROSA activists protested outside Leinster House in Dublin, Ireland, during Level 5 COVID-19 lockdown. Campaigners were calling for emergency action on the shadow pandemic of gender-based violence.

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NEW RELEASES



The 'Ohana Grill Cookbook:

Easy and Delicious Hawai'i-Inspired Recipes from BBQ Chicken to Kalbi Short Ribs

BY ADRIENNE

ROBILLARD AND DAWN
SAKAMOTO PAIVA '99

Bring the diverse flavors and cultures of the Pacific to your own backyard with this cookbook. Featuring Sakamoto Paiva's photos throughout, "The 'Ohana Grill Cookbook" has recipes for carnivores and vegetarians alike, and just in time for warmer weather. (Ulysses Press)

Lexicon: Poetry

BY ALLISON JOSEPH '88

In her 12th book of poetry, Joseph has made "Lexicon" her love letter to language. The poems play with form in unexpected, imaginative ways as she grieves the loss of a parent, celebrates Black love and navigates the dual danger zones of racism and sexism. The poems are meditations on Joseph's love of words and the poetic form, though as a Black woman, they don't always love her back. (Red Hen Press)

Root and Branch:

A Novel

BY PRESTON FLEMING '71

Complete with masterful political intrigue, high-stakes security threats and hefty ethical implications, this realistic thriller is as timely as it is frighteningly entertaining. Fleming's seventh novel explores human rights from inside the government and asks just how far the government should go in the name of security. (PF Publishing)

The Stepping Off Place

BY CAMERON KELLY
ROSENBLUM '89

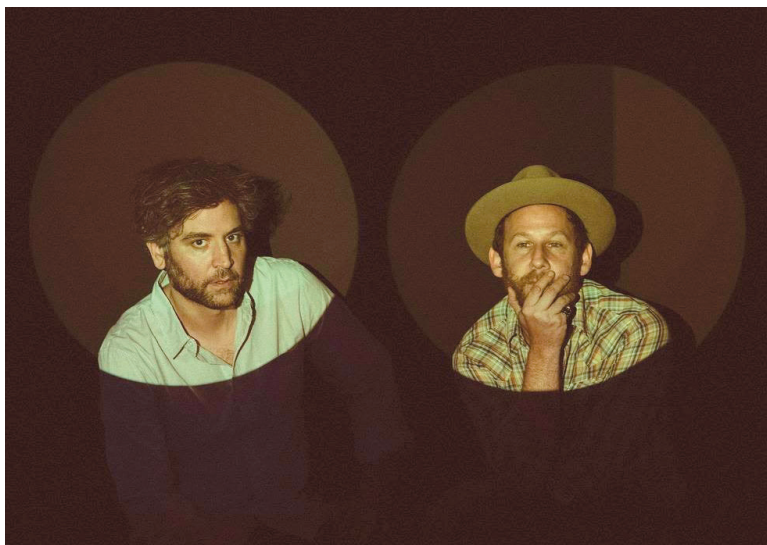
Debut author Rosenblum's young adult novel is a page-turner that's a testament to the prevailing stigma of mental illness — there is no "right" way to grieve and humans, even those you think you know best, contain multitudes. The novel will keep you up past your bedtime, alternating between laughter and reaching for the tissue box. (Quill Tree Books/HarperCollins Publishers)

Blood Red Lines: How Nativism Fuels the Right

BY BRENDAN
O'CONNOR '12

Journalist O'Connor examines border fascism — the anti-immigrant movements led by white nationalists. Bringing generations of eugenicist, xenophobic, misogynistic and racist beliefs to light, O'Connor lays the framework for explaining Trump's rise to power and heightened violence against immigrants. (Haymarket Books)

For a more complete listing of recent publications, turn to page 47.



JOSH RADNOR '96 AND BEN LEE

MUSICIANS

CALIFORNIA CALLING

Josh Radnor '96 shares the inspiration behind indie folk duo Radnor & Lee's "Ohio"

A few years ago Josh Radnor '96, who is best-known for his extensive acting and directing resume, teamed up with Australian singer-songwriter Ben Lee to form a band, Radnor & Lee. They've put out two albums together, "Radnor & Lee" in 2017 and "Golden State" in 2020.

"On the first record, we were a one-guitar band (that guitar being Ben's), but by the time we wrote and recorded the second album I was playing guitar and writing my own songs," Radnor said of his evolving musicianship. "On the day we wrote 'Ohio' (for 'Golden State'), I remember we were just playing around with a melody for a chorus and we both really responded to this A7 chord. Ben was playing the chord progression and, for some reason, I kept wanting to sing 'Ohio' atop the melody. So we landed on a title and very quickly the song became about the places we leave, and on some level, in that leaving, betray."

Both hailing from, in Lee's words, "places where people think Jews don't live," the friends initially bonded not only over their faith, but also the shared experience of "leaving our places of birth in order to do what we wanted with our lives," Radnor said. "Even though we both felt that leaving was essential, there is some strange guilt that lingers, like we had to turn our backs on families and friends in order to follow this other calling. This is all fairly subtle, of course. Neither of us were shamed for our choices. But the song became an exploration of what it means to be from somewhere and ultimately choose to create your life somewhere else."

Radnor also released his first solo EP, "One More Then I'll Let You Go," in April.

— ELIZABETH WEINSTEIN

I remember Ben asking what freeway you'd take to drive from Columbus to California. "70 West at 7 a.m." felt like a great first line to both of us to really set the scene.

I love the American road trip sub-genre of music. I don't know if that really exists but it feels like it does, and this song falls squarely into it.

I often can't recall who wrote what line when a song is finished — it's a really fluid process with me and Ben. But this last section was all Ben and I really love it. It's so stark and simple, but also really powerful. The narrator is not certain if he made the right decision but he defends the choice he made — perhaps protesting a bit too much. I really love the line, "I fell in love with life," the implication being that though there's a shadow to all our choices, that can't stop us from making them.

One thing that a lot of people comment on about this song is that I'm the one from Ohio but Ben sings the lead vocal on it. From the moment we started writing songs together, Ben encouraged me both as a songwriter and vocalist. On each album he sings lead on only one song. What happened was I was singing it and then he sang through it once and I just really liked the way it sounded when he sang it. I preferred it to my singing it, actually. And I really liked singing the end part, so it all worked out. With Ben singing the lead vocal it became less a literal song about a guy leaving the actual state of Ohio and more about the mythical "Ohio" that we all come from. And that many of us left.

COURTESY OF JOSH RADNOR '96



↑ **About Annotated:** Kenyon alumni create books, poems, magazine articles, songs, plays, screenplays and much more. Here, writers annotate their work, line by line.

OHIO

→ Seventy west at seven a.m.
Iron & Wine and road again ←

→ The cardinal singing me a goodbye song
Why does it feel like I am doing something wrong ←

I don't know when but I'll get there soon
→ Outside Chicago by the afternoon
Stop to get a coffee three times a day
Why do I feel close to you and so far away

Ohio
Please forgive this boy for running
Blame the spell that I fell under

→ Called the California sun
Ohio
Please forgive this boy for leaving
Know you probably don't believe me
But I regret the things I said when I was young ←

I can see the shimmer of the ocean blue ←
→ You gotta get real high to get this view
But I remember living on flat land
Craving peaks and valleys she just couldn't understand ←

Ohio
Please forgive this boy for dreaming
Every man must search for meaning
→ For adventure and for fun
Ohio
Can my exit be a lesson
Cause now my tongue's confessin
I regret the things I said when I was young

Is it such a crime
Is it such a crime
I fell in love with life
Is that such a crime

I fell in love with life
Is that such a crime
I fell in love with life
I fell in love with life

Is it such a crime
Is it such a crime
I fell in love with life
Is that such a crime

→ I fell in love with life
Is that such a crime

We kept asking ourselves questions: What would he be listening to? We both like Iron & Wine and it's fun to name-check other bands and musicians in songs.

Just to get more Ohio in there, I mentioned to Ben that the state bird of Ohio was the cardinal and he loved it.

The first pang of guilt...

Ben and I both fell deeply and quickly in love with California. During my first stretch in California I was stunned that one could spend February in 72-degree weather rather than in the depths of seasonal depression.

This is one of the key lines of the song, an acknowledgment that our youthful certainty often turns to regret.

Who doesn't love a nice double entendre?

No one ever forgets their first glimpse of the Pacific Ocean.

A defense of why the leaving was archetypal and necessary.

This was inspired by something my mom said to me years ago, that I liked my life like this: She drew peaks and valleys with her finger, like an EKG; and that she liked her life like this: She drew a flat line. It always stayed with me.

Bulletin | Class Notes

Share what's happening in your life. We want to hear from you! Email your updates to classnotes@kenyon.edu.

1950s

1952

G. Bruce Hartmann, Nashville, updates, "My wife and I are OK, living in a comfortable assisted-living apartment — but out of touch with Kenyon friends."

1953

William R. Townsend, Deep River, Connecticut, writes, "Still alive and kicking. Plan to relocate to a senior apartment in Old Saybrook that would be closer to stores. I have been married to two wonderful women, but both died of cancer. Currently waiting out the pandemic and keeping myself busy."

1954

David Y. Smith, Newbury Park, California, shares this memory: "In early 1955, Private E-2 Smith arrived in Tokyo after a two-week troop ship voyage. Walking along Ginza (a main drag) on a Sunday afternoon in uni-

both of us. He was deft with ohashi (chopsticks) and went for the sashimi with gusto, dipping it in a lemon juice and salt mix. Emulating him, I dipped what looked like eel in the juice. When it writhed, I balked. John retrieved it and consumed it with alacrity. We split the cost of the meal, which took most of John's Japanese money. I loaned him 600 yen (\$1.67) for cab fare, and we parted, wishing each other well. Over the years I've read bits about John in the Alumni Bulletin and, in due course, of his death. Vaya con Dios, John."

1955

Quentin T. Kelly, Hopewell, New Jersey, founder and CEO of WorldWater and Solar Technologies, Inc., updates, "We are quite busy in Africa, particularly Morocco, Côte d'Ivoire and Djibouti, supplying our proprietary solar-driven water purification and

J. Wilson 'Fergie' Ferguson, David 'Saint' Cummings, and Boulton D. 'Bo' Mohr. Luckily, in the past few years we all saw each other with our wives at Kenyon reunions. In the 1950s, soccer was not a well-known sport. Kenyon played but seven games per year, vanquishing Ohio U., Dayton, Ohio State and Michigan State. Today, teams from these schools are not seen in Gambier playing Kenyon's excellent soccer teams, but in our winning 1954 season we scored more goals than the football team scored points. My running days at Kenyon and many years thereafter have been replaced by the daily use of my cane or walker, caused in part by athletic injuries of the past. Of course, I do not regret those years of past athleticism as I hobble about."

1956

Peter L. Keys and his wife live in downtown San Diego, owning the 21st floor of a 43-story high-rise called the Harbor Club. "We have an unparalleled 22-mile view of the Pacific," he writes. "Can't quite see Japan. We used to take four to five trips or cruises every year, but COVID-19 curtailed our 2020 travels. I jog four to six miles a day to maintain a semblance of good health at age 86. Joan can no longer stand, walk, talk or dress herself, but she continues to maintain her mental sharpness."

1958

William R. Morrow, Fort Myers, Florida, has moved to Shell Point Village and stays active with music, painting, gardening and

volunteering at election time. **Dale A. Neuman**, Blue Hill, Maine, updates that, mostly sequestered except for medical appointments, he noticed his car's odometer shows he traveled 291 miles between March 1 and Oct. 1. "Visiting with family is by Zoom, activities are properly distanced and masks are required. We now eat dinner in the common dining room, two residents to a table, with the same dining partners for two weeks," he notes. "We celebrated one resident's 100th birthday at the end of September but were unable to sing 'Happy Birthday' to avoid possible contamination."

1959

The Rev. Canon Jeremy W. Bond, Grover Beach, California, writes, "Kathy and I married 58 years ago. For 17 years, we've lived a mile from the Pacific Ocean in a two-bedroom condo, grateful for our move from central Pennsylvania. Parkinson's slows me down physically and mentally, but my wife's very healthy and takes good care of me. Who knows how long I'll last? Only God. So I wish good life and health to all who read this." **Fred C. Mench**, Murfreesboro, Tennessee, shares that he's in a one-story house — "saves the knees" — and teaching Latin online as an adjunct at Middle Tennessee State University. "Still ambulatory."

1960s

1960

David J. Gury, Ocean Ridge, Florida, describes a busy year, both planned and unplanned. "In March we went to

"I've posted a poem on Facebook every day since March 15, 2020."

— **Daniel O. Holland '61**, on writing through the pandemic

form, I was approached by a lieutenant in uniform. Had to salute and did. As the lieutenant returned the salute, we recognized each other — it was **John S. VerNooy '52**. We'd both played lacrosse for Bill Styles. We decided to have dinner at a nearby sushi restaurant. John had been stationed up north in Sendai, was familiar with Japanese food and ordered for

desalination systems. We're also active in the Caribbean and Louisiana, Arkansas and Texas. I expect to sell my company in the next 18 months and retire but continue as board chair." **Caryl Warner Jr.**, Savannah, Georgia, writes, "When reading the most recent Bulletin, I was sorry to read of the passing of my four-year soccer teammates

Cleveland Heights, staying in our condo there, for my total knee replacement and Elias spine surgery that freed buried nerves. Went very well, successful recoveries, and we planned on participating in my granddaughter's Kenyon graduation and celebrating our 60th reunion. The pandemic changed a lot for all, but spring in Ohio was wonderful. We returned to Florida Oct. 1 and look forward to brighter times when we can all come together again."

Edward Hirschfield, Cupertino, California, frequently enjoys a beach house at nearby Pajaro Dunes, when it's not being rented or used by his mid-20s grandkids. "I continue to develop my system to alleviate road congestion," he writes, "and have completed first iteration full-size manufacturing drawings in an attempt to attract investors. Several nibbles, no bites. I'm looking for someone to take it over, because at 82 it seems I have better things to do with my time. Fires meant my daughter's family evacuated from Santa Rosa for the third time in three years, this time to her San Francisco parents-in-law, who lost their home to fire three years ago. Climate change is a real problem. Every day has its challenges, but we're having fun!" **Richard M. Schori**, Reno, Nevada, had major back surgeries in San Francisco last May at the UCSF Medical Center. "Nine vertebrae fused and metal bars installed on both sides of my spine," he describes. "I can now walk upright without pain, so life is much better. We live at 5,400 feet in the foothills going

up to Lake Tahoe and love our great mountain view. We have grandchildren in Corvallis, Oregon, and a getaway cabin between Reno and Corvallis. Life is good."

1961

Daniel O. Holland marked a year of living in Virginia, specifically in Waynesboro. "A pandemic was not in our exploring plans," he writes, but we managed some safe sorties into the Shenandoah National Forest and the Blue Ridge Mountains. Largely housebound, I completed the rewrite of my seventh novel and composed and posted a poem on Facebook every day since March 15, 2020. I also put together a book of angling memorabilia, while Patty wrote a murder mystery. She will play in the Waynesboro Symphony if they are able to have a concert season."

John Richard Symons and his wife, Susan, relocated in mid-March to the Knollwood Military Officers Retirement Home in northwest Washington, D.C., just days before the COVID-19 pandemic struck. "We find the apartment to be most accommodating," he notes. "Following 21 years of active duty with the USAF, in 1982 I retired to my original home in Chevy Chase, Maryland, worked as a contractor at the Department of Energy, and then for 22 years at the Pentagon, fully retiring in 2017. Travels include trips with fraternity brother **Robert T. Riker**."

1962

Harvey F. Lodish, Brookline, Massachusetts,

"I've always been painfully introverted, so I've been training for this pandemic world all my life."

— Perry C. Lentz '64

received the Donald Metcalf Lifetime Achievement Award from the International Society for Experimental Hematology in August. In December he received an honorary doctor of science degree from The Chinese University of Hong Kong.

1963

Calvin S. Frost, Lake Forest, Illinois, writes of a tumultuous year, which included his daughter coming down with COVID-19, picked up by her own daughter and son-in-law. "I have not traveled since returning from a conference in Amsterdam on March 1, 2020, except to our Wisconsin plant because of a fire. No injuries, but a lot of damage, resulting in prolonged negotiation with the insurance people. Our business is very strong, and we have run throughout the pandemic as we are defined as an essential business involved with the food and medical industries. Thinking of everyone in our class and hoping you stay healthy and safe!" **James P. Keyes**, Columbus, Ohio, enjoys volunteering with ForeHope, therapy for physically challenged golfers. "My job is to help them from their cars to their golf carts and drive," he explains. "Along the way, I sort of caddy. These people

are serious about golf: Occasionally, a player will hit an errant shot, then spew frustrated obscenities and have a brief discussion with God about the situation." He's also active with She Has a Name, assistance for human trafficking survivors, for whom he speaks with service clubs, community groups and church groups. With the Victory Choir, a music therapy program at James Cancer Hospital, Jim plays guitar, and at Saint Mark's Episcopal Church he works with "Becoming Beloved Community," addressing mainline Christian churches' declining membership. "Bottom line," Jim sums up, "whenever I feel frustrated or put-upon, I stop and remind myself that I am 78, still take nourishment the normal way, and shot my age in golf about a month ago. Then I end the pity party and get on with life." **Theodore L. Walch**, Studio City, California, notes, "I'm doing well, still teaching 12th grade full time at Harvard-Westlake School in Los Angeles. It's all virtual at the moment, but I've managed to figure out a way to make cinema studies and philosophy in art and science work as well as they can in Zoom. The kids are bright and eager, even in a virtual setting," Ted

writes, "but we all long for a return to the real classroom — but not until it's safe."

1964

Jeffrey D. Gold, Hamden, Connecticut, closed his ophthalmology practice of 50 years in 2019. "To keep my mind active," Jeff updates, "I'm doing a bit of work for insurance companies. Vicki and I have been happily married for 56 years. Our oldest grandson is at Johns Hopkins in a pre-med program. His brother is studying remotely this semester at Amherst College, part of the O-line and loving football. Our granddaughter attends a private school in Portland, Oregon." **Perry C. Lentz**, Gambier, Ohio, writes: "May was marked by the unceremonious — so to speak — graduation of grandson **Amos B. DeMartino '20**. He and his family (with his mother **Robin '88**) adjusted marvelously. A video testimonial spanned the length and breadth of folks who'd known him — a memento a 'real' graduation ceremony would never have produced. Granddaughter Etta is a junior at the College of Wooster, and grandson Bram a sophomore at Bowdoin. You all surely recollect that I've always been painfully

“No travel, no restaurants — just hibernation.”

— **Martin L. Madorsky '66**, summing up life in quarantine

introverted, so I've been training for this pandemic world all my life — what's the big deal?” Perry concluded his third year as senior warden of Harcourt Parish. **Walter W. Nielsen**, Phoenix, and his wife, Karen, “continue to cocoon by doing crossword puzzles, reading, hiking Arizona trails, gardening and virtually visiting our four children, five grandchildren and three great-grandchildren — a number happily augmented by great-grandson River’s arrival.” Walt and Karen also enjoy Arizona State University lifelong learning online courses. Last fall, he took classes in art history, bats, birds, volcanoes, jazz, memoir writing, movie history and storytelling. “A downtown Phoenix gallery is currently exhibiting several of Karen’s paintings and my nature photographs. Karen’s have far better odds of selling than mine.” **Henry S. Pool** relocated to Pittsburgh after two years in Florida. “Being close to family and friends prevailed over the weather,” he explains. “Since being back, we have spent a fair amount of time redoing the house to make it our home. As the house sits on a relatively large flat lot, our final project was to build a backyard pond, and now we allow our golden retriever a daily swim.” **J. Christopher**

Scott, Columbus, Ohio, and his wife, Susie, sold their home of 31 years to their daughter and built an addition for themselves. “We live here with Betsy and Jeff and their children, Abigail (12) and Emily (7).” After a banking and business career in Baltimore, Pittsburgh and Mexico City, Chris retired from his final position as a mediator for the Better Business Bureau and the Franklin and Delaware county courts. “COVID-19 has been eventful for us, as it has for everyone,” he writes. “As director of the Lower School for the Columbus School for Girls, Betsy had to suddenly implement a virtual education program for 150 students, grades one to five.” Chris described the family’s sheltering in place together: “It was interesting sitting at my desk, listening to the girls doing schoolwork in their respective bedrooms upstairs, Betsy’s school administration from her office and banking business coming from Jeff’s quarters.” **Charles S. Verdery**, Mechanicsville, Virginia, completed his Wharton M.B.A. in 1966 and raised three biological children and three stepchildren. “All are self-sufficient and have produced 15 grandchildren,” he shares. “I have become a serial entrepreneur,

having owned a number of businesses, still operating several.” An avid birder for 30 years, Charlie has traveled through North, South and Central America. With **Louis H. Berney '66** he has taken a few trips, including to Barrow, Alaska, the northernmost settlement in North America.

1965

Robert A. Legg, Greensboro, Georgia, and his wife, Janie, celebrated their 51st anniversary in September — but not on a cruise ship as had been scheduled. “Although Georgia is not one of the states that seems to take COVID-19 as seriously as recommended,” Bob notes, “we try to follow guidelines and stay well.” They planned to move to a continuing care retirement center in Athens, Georgia, in February. Bob enjoyed participating in a happy 93rd birthday Zoom call to Coach Bob Harrison in August. “He looked and sounded great. It was apparent how much he cherished his years at Kenyon.” **Frederick J. McGavran** works two days a week as a full-time chaplain at Marjorie P. Lee Retirement Community in Cincinnati ever since the regular chaplain left. “So far,” Fred updates, “the shock of getting up at 6:15 a.m. has been tolerable,

but a full week of this would not. To my great delight I re-established contact with **Burton J. ‘Burt’ Hurwitz** and **David J. Gaunt '66**. It’s amazing and gratifying to see what interesting lives our classmates and friends have enjoyed.” **James E. Williams**, Mequon, Wisconsin, found retirement boring. “I got a couple of jobs and consulting work with a plasmapheresis company and a drug-testing laboratory. I still sing in the car and shower, but nowhere else. I miss football in the fall and lacrosse in the spring, but — alas — these metal knees and shoulders and my fibrillating atrium do not allow me to participate. Fortunate to still be breathing and upright.”

1966

Frank B. “Burt” Dibble, Rye, New Hampshire, still practices medicine at a hospice facility and serves on the town zoning board, while his wife, Mae, practices law half time. “Her firm has an office in Cape Coral,” Florida, Burt shares, “which led us to a condominium there. She will carry on some practice and I can do my work remotely. I never contemplated being a snowbird, so this is a real pivot in our lives.” **Martin L. Madorsky**, Miami Beach, Florida, traveled to Hanoi, Vietnam, with six members of his family and numerous friends for his youngest son’s 2019 marriage to a Vietnamese woman he met at the University of Chicago business school. Martin’s wife and a granddaughter then went to Bhutan for a week, India for five days, and to London to visit their daughter and

two other granddaughters. “We returned in late December to hunker down during COVID-19,” he updates. “No travel, no restaurants — just hibernation since. We wish good luck and fortune to all!” **Gerald E. Reynolds**, Fairfax, Virginia, updates, “Ironically, spending four winters at Kenyon on the swimming team prepared me well for the past six months of voluntary quarantine: Eat, read, swim, sleep, repeat!” Jerry swam an hour a day in the neighborhood pool last summer, “maintaining my sanity but losing 26 pounds,” he notes. “Claudia and I are well and adjusting to the sad reality that the radius of our retirement travel has temporarily shrunk to 15 miles. Thankfully, I have been able to continue teaching part-time at George Mason University and serving on three voluntary boards, all via Zoom.”

1967

Phil Cerny, York, England, is surviving the U.K.’s COVID-19 lockdowns by walking, shopping, seeing friends and “even a bit of online dating (no success there),” he writes. Alongside academic writing and virtual conferencing, he still plays with his folk band, Ramshackle, which has been practicing outdoors. **The Rev. Dr. William C. Scar**, Aiken, South Carolina, is now a widower, and updates, “I am simply lousy without a loving partner.” Bill still enjoys seeing a handful of patients with special needs despite his retirement, and spent a few days with fellow Phi Kap **Roger G. Wallace** and his wife, Sharon, on Johns Island. “They are

as delightful a couple as they were over 50 years ago," he notes. "Be well, everyone." **Lawrence C. Schmidlapp**, Oyster Bay, New York, marvels at life's turns. "Never in my wildest dreams did I think I would be a mayor for over 11 years," Larry writes. "I am dealing with helicopters, horses and lawsuits, running my village and its police force. We are even plagued by fake news and lawyers who seem to have too much time on their hands. I should've taken more psych classes from Dr. Sam Cummings."

Michael L. Ulrey, Mount Vernon, Ohio, shares how different life looks in Gambier this year: "Everyone wears masks. The usual corner of the Wiggin Street coffee shop is not available for our old-timers' coffee klatsch. We sit outside on the porch of the old bookstore, talk to passersby — both students and village residents — and of course solve the world's problems. Math Mondays have started up again — as Zoom meetings, of course. It's great to see the students' involvement in writing papers, creating online content and doing internships in data analytics for sports teams and other commercial ventures." Mike gave a presentation in November about how he used math in his post-Kenyon career.

1968

Michael C. Johnston, Stratham, New Hampshire, sent the following note: "Dear friends, I am at the start of what I hope will be a long goodbye. I have stage-four brain cancer originating in my lung. Small cell. No cure. I appreciate knowing

you and the people we encountered at Kenyon, who guided us in keeping calm and finding the value and wholeness of the life I have followed. I am happy that I became a teacher, an illustrator and a filmmaker." Mike shared two of his films (available on YouTube): "Masks of Wolokoton and Desso" portrays masked funeral dances in Burkina Faso, and "Konkolikan Sambla Baan Burkina Faso" follows English teacher Samadou Coulibaly as he narrates a villager's assembly of a traditional xylophone. Mike's artwork is at michaeljohnstonart.com, where you can reach him. "I would love to hear from you," he concludes. "No telling how long, but my spirit's up, and I am happy — not least because I am remembering our times at Kenyon." **Jack D. Train**, Boston, has retired. "I had a fulfilling career of planning and executing new construction and renovations, including Union Station, D.C.; Grand Central Terminal and the Four Seasons Hotel, NYC, and lots more. Interesting twist for a chemistry major! To celebrate retirement, I joined **Pierce E. Scranton Jr.** for a 'bucket list' fly-fishing trip for huge rainbow trout in Alaska near Bristol Bay. Now it's on to helping with pre-school-age grandsons in Burbank, California — a far cry from Boston, where I concluded my career, but equally satisfying. All the best to my fellow Kokes, AD's and classmates." **Timothy J. Wildman**, Concord, New Hampshire, writes, "While these remain such painful and difficult times in our country and our world, my spouse, Carol Hovey,

my brother, Jim — who came to live with us — and I have never been more grateful for community. In March Jim (trombone) and I (trumpet and piano) began a series of nightly 'driveway concerts' with area jazz musicians who donate their time. We finished in late June but have continued periodic performances for socially distanced and masked folk spread out across neighborhood lawns and driveways. The sense of genuine community has been truly moving. Red Sox fans will appreciate that we end each concert with 'Sweet Caroline,' followed by a round of applause for the heroes who risk their lives for all of us, then 'taps.'"

says. "Grateful for the education I received at Kenyon — although I did the most to resist it at the time. I have spent a lifetime in and out of graduate schools since Kenyon, finally becoming a licensed clinical social worker and substance abuse counselor. It's hard to believe that, after struggling through Professor Baker's course, reading history would become one of my favorite pastimes."

1970s

1970

Robert C. Boruchowitz, Seattle, supervises a summer law student fellowship program at Seattle University and is active in state and national committees on

"I appreciate knowing you and the people we encountered at Kenyon, who guided us in keeping calm and finding the value and wholeness of the life I have followed."

— **Michael C. Johnston '68**

1969

Stacy A. Evans, Granville, Ohio, retired from active ministry with the West Ohio Conference of the United Methodist Church in 2007. Since then he has engaged in short-term interim ministries in many churches. **Marc Mason**, New York City, is expanding his third career as a psychoanalyst. "It's been a long and winding road, to quote some band from the '60s," Marc

public defense. "I won a case in the Washington Court of Appeals," Bob updates, "reversing a conviction for an 11-year-old girl because of ineffective assistance of counsel and an erroneous decision by the trial judge." **Richard J. Brean**, Pittsburgh, retired in 2018 as general counsel of the United Steelworkers International Union after a 40-year career. "My wife, Karen, is still working and helping to support me as an

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urban planning consultant,” Rich writes. “A few months ago, our daughter Molly stunned us by returning from London to work at Duolingo. This year I was appointed as the oldest (make that most senior) member of Alumni Council, joining **Thomas R. Moore '72** and **Pegi Goodman '73**. **Eugene ‘Gene’ Peterson** serves on the Kenyon Fund Executive Committee, and I get to see Buddha regularly on joint Alumni Council/KFEC Zoom calls.”

1972
Eric L. Bauer, Buckeystown, Maryland, sold the house and bought an RV. “Headed to Anna Maria Island, Florida, for winter, then on to explore national parks in Texas and New Mexico,” Ric reports. “Then on through Colorado, Montana and hopefully up into Alberta and the Canadian Rockies. From there we’ll head to the West Coast and meander from the San Juan Islands all the way down to where we’ll winter in Los Cabos.

any interested parties. Many schools showed it to their history, political science and theater classes or made it available to students.”

1973
Thomas E. Allen, Takoma Park, Maryland, retired from Gallaudet University after 40 years as a professor, researcher, dean and NSF Research Center director. “Retiring from the university, yes, but not from my work and love of research,” Tom adds. **Richard C. Lesaar**, Washington, D.C., finished the New York City Marathon in 2019. Rick notes that he wore a Kenyon cap the whole way. **Bonnie Levinson**, San Francisco, held virtual open studios in October due to COVID and enjoyed reaching people all over the country. “It was great to catch up with friends, family and even some collectors to share my new work. My friend in France said it was too early in the morning for her,” she informs, “so I am doing private virtual open studios via Zoom for those interested.” Find details at bonnielevinson.com. “Also, I am about to become a great-grandmother — not bad for a girl who didn’t have kids.” **Peter J. Pappas**, Longmeadow, Massachusetts, shifted to a consulting role with Morgan Stanley after 40 years as a financial adviser. “In other words, I’m working for my son,” Pete jokes. “I’m hoping there’s no retaliation for those high school groundings.” He looks forward to getting more involved with nonprofits and having more free time to take courses and reflect. **Ann Wiester Starr**, Columbus,

Ohio, updates, “My second grandchild was born on Sept. 30 to Maggie Starr and her wife, Sarah Hardin, in Portland, Oregon. I’ve been enjoying COVID freedom to return to the 18th century. I’m keeping sane and laughing with Tom Jones and Tristram Shandy, who are excellent company in brutal times.”

1974
Jamie J. Barth, Chicago, and **Richard E. “Rick” Yorde Jr. '71** enjoyed visiting Havana in February 2020. “Our group of 10 was based in Old Havana’s tiny winding streets,” she describes. “We rode in old convertibles along the Malecon (a broad esplanade and sea wall) and met with Roberto ‘Chile’ Lopez, Castro’s personal videographer. We learned the original rumba in Matanzas, enjoyed a rehearsal of a remarkable dance company in a crumbling former movie theater, and delighted in the charm of the lovely Cuban people.” **Alice C. Fleming**, Branford, Connecticut, celebrated the birth of her first grandchild, Ruth Grace Cooper, on Sept. 25. “Ruth was named for my husband’s mother, who died earlier in the year,” Alice shares. “Our daughter **Kathryn (Fleming) Feder Cooper '12** and her husband, Alex, are thoroughly enjoying parenthood. They live in Atlanta, so we’ve had to do a lot of quarantining so we can see each other — all worth it!” The happy event occasioned a Kenyon Zoom call with **Julie F. Johnson '73**, **David W. Horvitz**, **Martha Blazer Smith** and **Robert C. Zoller**. **Jan D. Forsyth**, Springfield, Virginia,

“I’m hoping there’s no retaliation for those high school groundings.”

— **Peter J. Pappas '73**, on working for his son at Morgan Stanley

1971
Richard E. Yorde Jr., Chicago, notes that the pandemic curtailed further travel plans after a February visit to Havana (described below by **Jamie J. Barth '74**). “I have kept busy during this time of social distancing,” Rick writes, “with daily Tai Chi, a cultivation of body, mind and spirit practiced in 26 countries. It has been a key part of remaining calm through the present turmoil. Over the past two years I have also been actively involved in the development of a small business incubator space that we hope to launch on the west side of Chicago to assist disadvantaged people in creating their own businesses.”

Spring 2022 will see us off to Europe for a couple years, then the Mediterranean.” **John H. Emack**, Rocky River, Ohio, updates that adjusting to pandemic life for him meant playing golf with **Norman E. “Norm” Schmidt '71** once a week all summer. “We had no problem maintaining social distancing on the golf course!” **Mark W. Hofmaier**, New York City, wrote a one-person play about FDR returning from the afterlife to issue a clarion wake-up call and stern warning. “We intended to perform it live in colleges, registering students to vote,” he informs. “Then came COVID. So it became a screenplay and a film. It’s about 40 minutes long and can be sent as a YouTube link to

updates, "As a first-time contributor, I suppose I have a lot of ground to make up. After leaving Kenyon I returned to Washington, D.C., and enrolled in law school. I retired two years ago from my civil litigation practice with the D.C. Superior Court, after working with **Ulysses Hammond '73** briefly there. I volunteer for an immigration rights clinic and am president of Accotink Unitarian Universalist Church. To keep active in anti-oppression work, I'm reading 'Braiding Sweetgrass' by Robin Wall Kimmerer and 'An Indigenous Peoples' History of the United States' by Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz, and I hope to continue to spend summers in an inherited family home in southern Alberta. I took advantage of my father's birth in Canada to become a dual citizen. A longer residence in Canada is looking increasingly attractive." **Timothy J. Newcomb**, Worcester, Vermont, took second place in the Association of Alternative Newsmedia awards for political cartooning, which covers newspapers across the U.S. and Canada — after winning first place the year before. "Sadly," Tim adds, "the winnings weren't enough to score a snazzy new car from Porsche salesman **Theodore T. 'Thad' Toole**. Not enough even to buy a cup of coffee, in fact, but it was still a nice honor. In the meantime, I've been gratefully riding out the COVID zombie apocalypse in the mountains of Vermont and even happier to have our daughter **Lydia VanDorn Newcomb '08** back in the state working

as a criminal defense attorney. **Hal Real**, Rockland, Delaware, co-founded the National Independent Venue Association, creators of the #SaveOurStages movement, once the pandemic began. "If you believe in the importance of independent live music, comedy and performance venues, please visit nivassoc.org and support us," Hal writes. "All Kenyonites are invited to join us at World Cafe Live in Philly when we finally get to enjoy live music together again on the other side of this crisis!" **Martha S. Schulman**, North Chesterfield, Virginia, reports how proud she was of Kenyon after listening to President Sean Decatur's virtual talk about the college's pandemic response. "The campus approach to COVID appears to be sensible and safe," she observes. "I was delighted to learn about the emphasis on training and dialogue for students, faculty and staff relating to antiracism and equity." Martha and her partner, George Puster, are finding life "less pleasantly hectic"

without travel, concerts and indoor visits from grandchildren. "We have discovered many wonderful places nearby to hike and kayak, and we realize how beautiful Virginia is. We are grateful and hope people around the world will be able to feel the same way in the near future." **Janet A. Bloss Shuff**, Southlake, Texas, spends most days at Birdland: "That's my name for the 12 acres of forest, field and creek that Ron and I bought adjacent to our home," she explains. "I plant trees, pull weeds, feed fish and turtles, listen to birdsong and try to avoid poison ivy, snakes and fire ants."

1975
Linda (Dickman) Findlay and **Charles W. "Spinner" Findlay III '68** moved to Westport, Massachusetts, from Washington, D.C. "The rural setting is a welcome respite after years of hustle-bustle city living," she informs. "Instead of dodging pedestrians, I'm now navigating around deer, turkeys and coyotes." Linda serves on a few nonprofit

boards, including Kenyon's Philander Chase Conservancy. "The highlight of 2020 has definitely been the arrival in August of our first grandchild — some happiness in these difficult times." **Richard E. Gordon**, Pittsburgh, counts the months of pandemic as "long enough for me to get two self-inflicted haircuts." A fifth radio station picked up his radio show, "Whiskey Before Breakfast," out of WRCT in Pittsburgh. He adds, "WVUD at the University of Delaware had me come out of retirement to send them five or six remote folk music shows a month. With radio, no one knows if you've got a fancy hairstyle or a gnarly self-inflicted haircut. So it's safe for me." **Michael R. Halleran**, Williamsburg, Virginia, writes that after years in school administration, he has returned full-time to teaching and research. Remote instruction requires too much time spent on technology, he notes, but "teaching elementary Greek brings back many happy memories of fall 1971 and

NEW RELEASES

A sampling of recently published books by members of the Kenyon family

Anneka Lenssen '01, "Beautiful Agitation: Modern Painting and Politics in Syria"

Sarah Wasserman '03, "The Death of Things: Ephemera and the American Novel"

Tia Martina (pen name for **Martina Faulkner '94**), with Kelly Ulrich, "When the World Went Quiet"

Eric Newman '96, "Lundi the Lost Puffin"

Tamsin Smith '88, "Displacement Geology" and "Xisle"

Doug Ramspeck '76, "Distant Fires: Poems" and "Under Black Leaves"

William Loving '77, "City of Angles: A Novel"

Katie Weber '10, "When Life Hands You Lemons ... And Other Trite Bullshit We Tell Ourselves to Get Through Cancer"

Jim Reisler '80, "I Got the Horse Right Here: Damon Runyon on Horse Racing"

>Discover more featured books on page 39.

RECIPE

Top Chef Rising

SASHA GRUMMAN '10
SHARES A FRESH TAKE ON
A BELOVED CLASSIC

Sasha Grumman '10 grew up in a Sicilian family where cooking together was the norm. She can't recall a single holiday, birthday or celebration that didn't revolve around the dinner table.

"Many lasagnas, meatballs and prime ribs were eaten throughout the years and I think that's really what has built the foundation to my culinary career," she said. "I can't express my gratitude enough that this is my path in life. I get to cook what I love for a living."

If Grumman (known also as "The Fierce Chef") looks familiar, it's because she was among the 15 chefs competing for the title of "Top Chef" on the popular Bravo TV show, which filmed its 18th season under pandemic bubble conditions in Portland, Oregon, last fall.

"It's really magical to think that at my seventh birthday party, I was making fresh pasta with my closest friends. From watching Emeril at age 5, to culinary school in Italy, to being the executive chef of a hotel with Italian themed menus, life has a funny way of navigating you towards your true calling," she said. "Italian food, with flair, is what I do."

When the Kenyon Alumni Magazine asked Grumman (pictured, right, in her "Top Chef" apron) to share one of her favorite recipes she chose chicken cacciatore because "it's a classic and it has so much soul. The building of flavor and taking it in any direction that you choose is really up to you. From the spice level to the mushrooms, there is a lot of freedom for the chef here."

Grumman sees recipes as guides; she suggests making this recipe true to its direction the first time and then making adjustments.

"I can't help thinking of my childhood when I make this dish," she said. "I hope it brings you all the comfort and love that it brings me."

— DAVID HOYT '14





my wonderful classmates." **Elizabeth D. (DeWindt) Kelly**, Green Cove Springs, Florida, reports, "Marty and I continue to live aboard our 42-foot catamaran. Makes it very easy to stay socially distanced. Currently moving south along the East Coast with one eye always on the weather. A little tough to travel too far from the U.S. — lots of COVID restrictions. But life is pretty lovely." **Howard M. Leaman**, Salt Lake City, Utah, teaches skiing at Alta Ski Area, having retired from medical practice

a few years back. "Last winter," he reports, "**F. Jay Andress III** and I met up for a few days of outstanding skiing. It would be great to see more Kenyonites up here!" **Pamela A. Martin-Diaz** sends "greetings from Knox County, Ohio! I have been here off and on since retiring in January 2020 from Allen County Public Library, Fort Wayne, Indiana, ending close to 40 years as a public librarian." Pam works on an early literacy project with Head Start to increase the impact of Dolly Parton's

Imagination Library. "I have been lucky to spend time with my first roommate, **Mary Kay Karzas**, as well as **Murray J. Smith** and **Janet Byrne Smith '76.**" **Charlotte "Shami" (Jones) McCormick**, Winter Springs, Florida, became a first-time grandparent on Aug. 29 with the birth of Rhys Daniel McCormick. "Due to COVID concerns, we have had to make do with lots of photos!" she reports. "Unfortunately, the pandemic has shut down my livelihood, so it's interesting times, to say the least. We have kept busy with rescuing injured ducks: The latest is named Alexander Hamilton. I've also been editing some friends' books. Sadly, I must share that my brother **P. Jeffery Jones '68** passed away on Sept. 23 after a lengthy battle with Parkinson's. Peace, love and may 2021 be a better year for all." **Murray J. Smith** reports, "**Janet Byrne Smith '76** and I have been riding out the pandemic here in Gambier, where social distancing is practically a way of life. It was great to see at least some of the students return for fall semester, and I have to say they have been very diligent about masking, distancing and so on, notwithstanding recent reports of a few oversized social gatherings."

1976
Seth L. Frechie, Narberth, Pennsylvania, retired in May after 30 years in higher education, most recently as professor and English department chair at Cabrini University in Radnor, Pennsylvania. "It's been a great career — teaching, writing, presenting, editing," he

writes, "but as my former provost remarked when she retired, 'work is overrated.' With only five months under my belt, I'm inclined to agree. I'm in touch with **James C. Fenhagen**, the **Rev. John M. Graham** and others. I hope everyone is weathering the pandemic as well as well can be." **Janet E. Heckman** retired last year from the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, left Cairo and moved to the west coast of Ireland. "Dermot and I arrived at our house in time for a very stormy January and February, with four hurricane-level storms," she reports. "We flew to Ohio on March 8, intending to stay four weeks." The COVID lockdown delayed their return to Ireland until October. An independent director on the board of Air Astana (of Kazakhstan), Janet joined Kenyon's Alumni Council and the reunion planning committee and hopes to see you in Gambier in May. **Rabbi Charles P. Rabinowitz**, Larchmont, New York, has been making telehealth visits with home hospice patients and families. Charlie serves as ethics chair for Neshama: Association of Jewish Chaplains. "I write a morning prayer of support for my colleagues," he notes. "My wife and daughter teach virtually, and my special-needs son works part-time in Tucson. Participating in peaceful protest and trying to do *tikkun olam*. We were able to take our usual time in the White Mountains and Ogunquit, where we had a nice day with **Steve Grant**. Hope you and your families

Chicken Thigh Cacciatore

RECIPE:

4 T	Extra virgin olive oil
4	Chicken thighs, bone in and skin on
2 T	Mushroom powder
	Salt and pepper
8 oz	Pancetta, diced
8 oz	Oyster mushrooms (or any you like), gently pulled apart
½	Yellow onion, thinly sliced
1	Orange bell pepper, thinly sliced
1 T	Coriander seeds, whole
1 T	Fennel seeds, whole
1 T	Cumin seeds, whole
4	Bay leaves, fresh
2 C	Red wine
4 C	Chicken stock
1 can	Peeled San Marzano tomatoes, hand crushed
1 C	Sultanas (golden raisins)
1 T	Preserved lemon, minced
1 T	Calabrian chilies, crushed
1 T	Parsley, chopped
	Basil, whole for garnish

PROCEDURE:

Start with a six-quart heavy bottomed pot, add extra virgin olive oil and turn on medium/high heat. Season chicken with mushroom powder and salt and pepper. Sear chicken skin side-down until golden brown and flip. Add pancetta and render. Add mushrooms, bell pepper, and yellow onion and sear well. This part is quick! Tilt the pot a little so all of the oils and fats gather in a little pool to one side — add the seeds and bay leaf, and shallow-fry them until toasted in color and aromatic. Level the pot out and deglaze with red wine, and reduce until dry. Add chicken stock and crushed and peeled tomatoes. Turn heat down and simmer until chicken is cooked through — about 15 minutes — use a thermometer to be sure! (165F) Keep heat low and add Sultanas, preserved lemon, Calabrian chilies and parsley — cook low and slow for another 10 minutes, just until the Sultanas plump up a little. Check for seasoning and adjust as you wish — the preserved lemon and pancetta and seasoned chicken help season the entire dish, so extra salt may not be necessary. Serve in slightly warmed bowls and finish with a few leaves of fresh basil and olive oil.

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are strong and safe."

Kimbol B. Stroud, Columbus, Ohio, retired after a long real-estate career and 23 years as primary hearing officer for the Franklin County Auditor's Board of Revision. "I am hoping to finally reconnect with my Kenyon friends now that my time is not consumed by work. Best wishes to you all, and stay well. Signed, K-ball, K-nut, 8-Ball, Bass Buddha — I answer to all."

1977

John J. Bogasky, Silver Spring, Maryland, reports that he and **Jerome "Jerry" Mindes** have been organizing monthly Class of '77 Zoom calls on Sunday nights, typically with 15 to 20 classmates. **Jayne S. Danska**, Toronto, Canada, reports these are "demanding times to be an immunologist in a large academic research hospital, navigating the COVID-19 pandemic in our work, community and family. Some exciting research at rapid pace. Thankfully my family and friends are safe and well. Buoyed by a lively connection with a dozen classmates via Facebook and Zoom happy-hour calls — huge shout-out to **John J. Bogasky**. My daughter **Fiona D. Guidos '22** studies remotely from home this

semester — missing her friends, faculty and the magic of the Hill in the autumn." **Beshara B. Doumani**, Providence, Rhode Island, sends this update from Brown University: "After decades of separation, I am finding Kenyon again. I was invited a couple of times to give talks on campus and absolutely loved the faculty and students I met. Walking along Middle Path brought back bittersweet memories. I would not give up my four years as a student for anything, but happy that Kenyon is now a far more diverse, inclusive and intellectually open institution than it was. After many years at Penn and Berkeley, I am happily settled at Brown. Not being on social media and leading the nomadic life of an academic, I lost touch with friends and loved ones and welcome hearing from them."

1978

Rosemary Brandenburg, Altadena, California, updates that she was in Atlanta decorating a Sony film through March. "Great to be back at work after the COVID break. Sending best to everyone coping with illness and economic difficulties in these trying times." **Anara S. Guard**, Sacramento, California, shares that her poem "Respite"

"After decades of separation,
I am finding Kenyon again."

— **Beshara B. Doumani '77**,
on visiting the Hill to give pre-pandemic talks for students

earned first prize in the California State Poetry Society's annual competition. **The Rev. Dr. James H. Logan Jr.**, Huntersville, North Carolina, writes: "Life is good in the Carolinas. It has been great to connect on social media and find some subscribing to my YouTube channel, Bishop Jim Logan. I continue to lead a growing independent congregation in Charlotte and cover pastors and churches globally." Jim and his wife, Sybil, traveled to Liberia in November to visit churches there. **Robert K. Lundin**, Glen Ellyn, Illinois, submits that the literary magazine he established in 2000 at the University of Chicago, *The Awakenings Review*, is still publishing the work of writers and poets with mental illness. Bob routinely gets international submissions, he says, and was recently thrilled to receive a short story by a writer from Russia. "It feels like a tiny sliver of détente," he says.

1979

Scott Klavan, Bronx, New York, is an actor-director-playwright-teacher in NYC. In 2019, Scott directed an abridged production of Stephen Sondheim and James Lapine's classic musical "Into the Woods," cast solely with senior actors. Sondheim and Lapine visited a rehearsal, and the project was featured in the New York Times. Since the shutdown he's been teaching Zoom therapeutic drama classes for seniors. Scott writes about theater for the online journal *Escape Into Life*, edited by Kenyon's **Kathleen V. Kirk**. For over 15 years, he was script/story analyst for Kenyon's legendary Paul Newman. Learn more about his work at scottklavan.com. **Gary D. Snyder** moved from the East Coast to Bozeman, Montana, in 2018, now that he is an art consultant and adviser and no longer tied to a gallery space. "Although planning on semi-retirement," Gary writes, "I became excited about a Bozeman artist, Ben Miller, who paints by fly-casting (flycastpainting.com) and ended up presenting his work in a pop-up gallery in an old historic grain mill in Bozeman." Gary enjoyed seeing roommate **Louis B. Fox '78**, who has been in Bozeman for over

15 years. **William R. Soukup**, Winston-Salem, North Carolina, represents indigent defendants accused of potentially capital homicides. "Our children are nearing the end of their college careers," Bill writes, "with Lillie a senior at the College of Wooster and **Thea Soukup '22** currently a Kenyon junior. Lillie has been able to live on campus, while Thea hopes to return to campus for her second semester."

1980s

1980

Jennie Hutton Jacoby, Wellesley Hills, Massachusetts, and her family quarantined on Cape Cod, working remotely. "I am on sabbatical from teaching high school English," she writes, "so it has truly been the endless summer. Back in June, I had such fun Zooming for our Kenyon reunion, hanging out in a breakout room with the likes of **Joey Glatt** and **Lee S. Segal**. My most joyful news, though, is that **Douglas B. Jacoby '82** and I became grandparents in March, and we have recently begun taking care of Theodore three days a week. So I'm singing 'Baby Beluga' once again!" **Karl J. Shefelman**, New York City, updates, "While locked down in our cozy West Village apartment during COVID craziness

"It feels like a tiny sliver
of détente."

— **Robert K. Lundin '78**, editor of the *Awakenings Review*, on receiving a short story submission from a Russian writer

I've managed to keep working my day job as a storyboard artist virtually, which I must say I kind of like." Karl completed a project for director Ron Howard on a new movie called "13 Lives," the story of the Thai soccer team miraculously rescued from a cave. Karl's own film, "Man on the Tower," now hitting film festivals and viewable online, is "a fictionalized account of my memory as a youngster of the U.T. Tower sniper shooting in Austin, Texas," he informs. **Lynn Snyderman**, Pittsburgh, is enjoying retirement from her work as a staff attorney for the Pennsylvania Supreme Court. "I spend most mornings on either a pickleball or tennis court," she informs. "Fortunately, these sports are COVID-friendly, and I have been able to maintain my sanity (mostly) for the past six months."

1981

James B. Archer, Houston, updates, "Keeping public transit in Houston safe while ensuring social distancing and adjusting to a budget shortfall of tens of millions of dollars during COVID-19 has kept me on my toes. Fifteen staff working from 15 different locations with five different primary languages has put my foreign language degree to good use." Jim's son Daniel graduates from high school this spring. "While Kenyon has tried to recruit him, he's a native Texan and looking to stay in-state. Since my last note, I shared the disappointment of the closing of the Youngstown Vindicator with **Mark A. Brown** and the excitement of

a Super Bowl victory for **Val F. Schaff's** Kansas City Chiefs." **William H. Derks**, Cary, North Carolina, is vice president of land development at McAdams, a civil engineering, land planning and surveying firm where he has worked for 24 years. He and Colleen celebrated their 34th anniversary. "I am an active runner, biker and, yes, swimmer. I still make it to the pool three times a week," Bill writes. "Slightly fewer yards at a much slower pace these days. We live just a couple miles from **Donald L. Shupe Jr.** and enjoy seeing him and his family very often." **Elizabeth A. Dickinson**, Brooklyn, New York, is executive director of strategic initiatives and external relations at CUNY School of Law, after 35 years in nonprofits. "It seems especially apropos to be at CUNY Law where my late husband, Luis DeGraffe, taught for 20 years," Liz notes. "I share a brownstone in Brooklyn with my sons Jamaal and Khalil, who are pursuing their artistic passions in film and music." **Martha Roberts Haddon**, Alpharetta, Georgia, reports, "Thankful that packaging is an essential business. We are all still standing despite this crazy year. We now have two of our sons and two sons-in-law working with us." She celebrates having added three grandchildren, including twins, this year, for a total of six. "It's the best thing ever!" **Dorothy Lenard**, Bloomington, Indiana, is enjoying semi-retirement by clearing out her parents' house to turn it into an AirBnB, coaching students

with disabilities, and making and selling jewelry through For the Kids Creations. **Wendy A. MacLeod**, Gambier, Ohio, reports that her comedy "Slow Food" premiered at Merrimack Rep (before COVID lockdowns) and in September was performed online by the Arizona Theater Company. "After a summer in New Hampshire with **K. Read Baldwin '84** and my two sons **Avery D. Baldwin '17** and **Foss K. Baldwin '15**, I'm back in the classroom with a mask on, with some students in the room and some on screens."

1982

Mary "Hunter" Estes Barrat, Shepherdstown, West Virginia, updates, "I live in the beautiful Harpers Ferry area, where my backyard slopes down to the Shenandoah River, and

Gretchko, Elizabeth Tudor Scharnhorst, Karin H. Moorma, Kay M. Hawn and Tammy L. Martin. Frances H. "Corky" Hebert, Lutherville, Maryland, resides near Baltimore, enjoying a sixth year running her flower design company, Petal Pushers. "I am a proud grandmother and enjoy going to visit my kids, who live all over the country!" she reports. **Evan O. Jones**, Richland, Washington, sold a house after almost 18 years in Virginia and moved to the high desert of eastern Washington state. "I got unpacked, settled in and promptly filed to run for U.S. Congress as the only independent." Evan reports "predictable results" — fourth place out of five. "But hey, I got 5,000 votes in a hyper-partisan (red) district. Peruse evanjones.us if you want to critique my

"I spend most mornings on either a pickleball or tennis court."

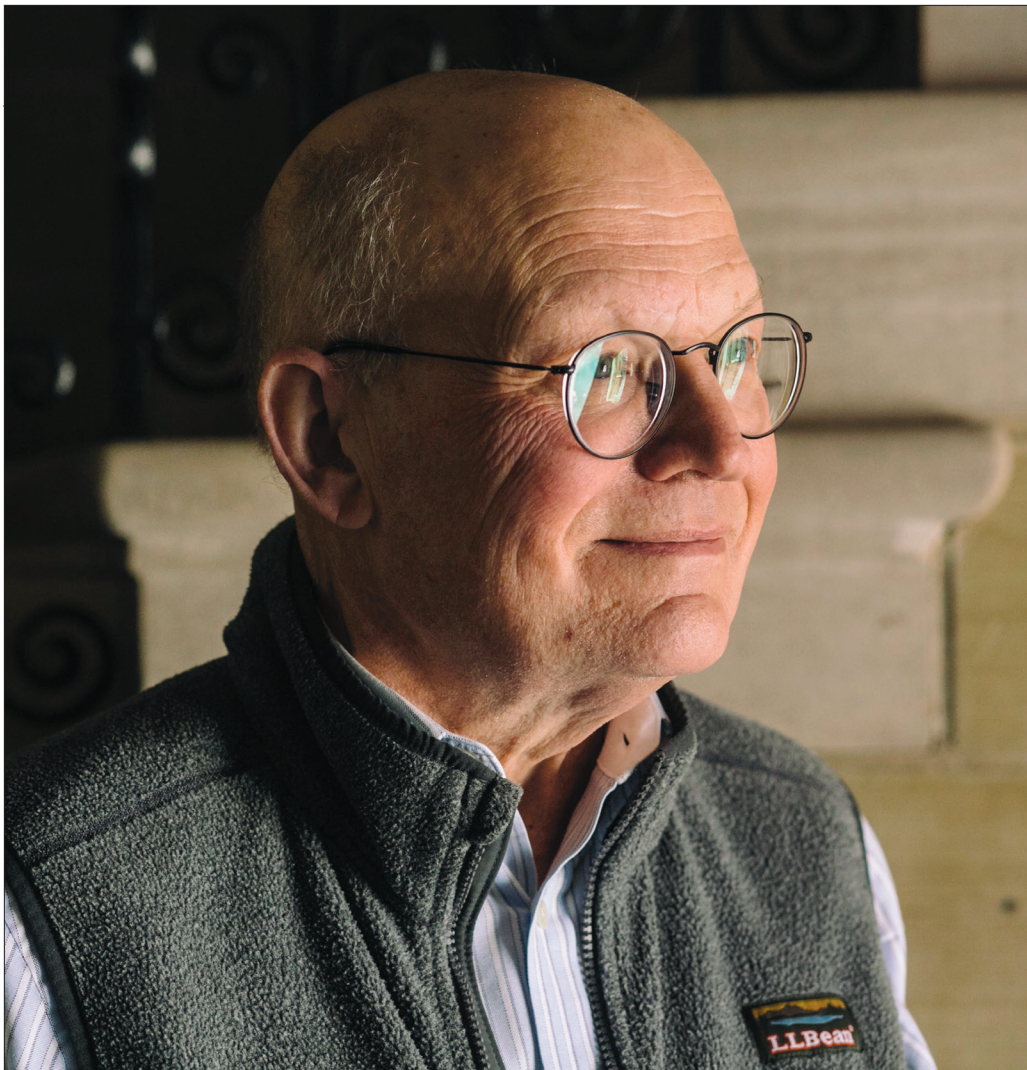
— **Lynn Snyderman '80**, on enjoying her retirement

I sit on my screened-in porch trying not to be distracted by this incredible view while working as a technical writer/editor for a small cybersecurity company. I enjoy hiking the numerous local trails, watching bald eagles fly overhead as I paddle my kayak downriver, and joining in weekly adventures with the Wild and Wonderful Wednesday Hash House Harriers (*On On!*). Hunter has enjoyed Zoom meetups with **Christine Schrashun**

quixotic campaign." Now consulting and working part-time with Alaska Airlines, he flies virtually free to visit daughters in Australia and Brooklyn. Last year Evan camped at Flagstaff Lake with **Mark S. Dorsett '84** and **Sharon Cassidy Dorsett '85**.

1983

James H. Dempsey III, Rocky River, Ohio, updates, "It's been a long time since I sent in a class note! My wife, Kate, and I celebrated



ONE OF US

Thomas Moore '72

Tom Moore '72 may have graduated almost 50 years ago, but like many alumni, he never really left Kenyon. He remains connected to the College through his music and drama memories, and his many volunteer roles, including his latest as a member of a committee working to enhance the new 50th Reunion Program (kenyon.edu/50th-reunion).

Hometown: Pittsburgh

Occupation: Retired after a 40-year career as a lawyer and investment advisor

Connected to Kenyon: I have been able to return to Kenyon frequently having served on KFEC, Board of Trustees and Alumni Council. I have returned most years since I graduated.

Motto: Work hard and be nice to people.

Proudest accomplishment: Being president of the Kenyon College Drama Club, and visiting my clients where they live and work (Jackson, Wyoming; Central Park East; the Neighborhood of Make Believe).

Favorite Kenyon memory: The great concerts we had my senior year — the Byrds, Flying Burrito Brothers, Loudon Wainwright, Jackson Browne.

What has most surprised you about your life post-Kenyon? How often I run into people from Kenyon who I have never met before. We are always glad to see each other.

Best advice anyone has ever given you? Think before you speak.

Song that changed your life: "Waterloo Sunset" by Ray Davies of the Kinks. It is just a lovely song about two ordinary people in a lovely part of London.

our 25th anniversary this year. Our son Jack is a sophomore at Xavier University in Cincinnati. I have been working in business-to-business media for over 30 years, most of that time with Reed Business Information and UBM-Informa. Now working for Cleveland-based WTVH Media, managing clients across the U.S. for our EE World, Design World and R&D World brands." **G. Taylor Johnson**, Hyattsville, Maryland, returned from a late-February family vacation in the Bahamas to the governor's COVID-19 stay-at-home orders. "I used the time to complete a cedar shingle siding repair, paint the exterior and two rooms of the house, work on a bathroom tiling job and remove the vines taking over the back garden," he writes. Taylor uses video technology and social media platforms to promote his real estate business now that in-person meetings are impossible. "In a strange way," he adds, "isolation has brought me closer to my family spread out across the U.S., as weekly Zoom gatherings unite siblings, nieces and cousins whom I would otherwise only 'see' at a family wedding or funeral."

1984

Stephen D. Behrendt teaches history at Victoria University in Wellington, New Zealand. On sabbatical, Steve is working on various 18th-century Liverpool history and slave trade projects, his research appearing on slavevoyages.org and liverpoolmaritime.org. COVID ended his sabbatical plans to conduct research in the U.S. and U.K. **Jeffrey A. Bell**,

ANDREW SPEAR

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Kirkland, Washington, informs that he and **Colleen Murphy Bell '85** used the pandemic to explore the state: car trips to Olympic National Forest, Hood Canal, the Palouse and Mount Rainier. "LegalShield, the business I have the honor of running, has grown powerfully in the face of social injustice as well as a heightened awareness that every citizen should have equal access to legal services," Jeff writes. **Heather J. Gert**, Greensboro, North Carolina, now heads the Philosophy Department at UNC-Greensboro. "What a time to start that job!" she exclaims. **Kristen M. Richardson**, Philadelphia, started her second year on Alumni Council. "Enjoying getting to know more alums as we work on ways to support the College and its students. If you have any questions or want to raise an issue, don't hesitate to contact me!" she writes. **Cynthia Frost White**, Lake Bluff, Illinois, reports, "Almost 40 years after we met, **Carolyn S. Lackey**, **William H. Knopp**, **Pam Sweet** and **Bennett A. Blau** and I met for a week of adventures in northern Massachusetts and the central coast of Maine. Masks in hand, we reminisced about classes and old friends, and made new memories hiking hills and rocky coasts, vying to beat one another in ping pong and other games. Each evening was spent just like many evenings at Kenyon, and each morning we swore we wouldn't do it again, but we did! Nothing has changed but a few lines on our faces!"

1985

Melinda D. (Roberts) Haines, Fort Wayne,

Indiana, updates, "In May 2019 I received my master's of business administration from Purdue Global after an intense 11-month period of working full time and studying online from the comfort of my living-room couch. In January 2020 I started a new position as CEO of the Literacy Alliance, a nonprofit that helps adults obtain their high school equivalency degree and other job certifications, as well as providing adult English language improvement classes. It has been quite a transition, especially during the pandemic, because our agency assists people disproportionately affected by this crisis. Helping them succeed is very gratifying." **Gina Bauman Kornfeind**, Pacific Palisades, California, hoped to be on campus for the 35th but notes, "Our beloved **Susan B. Berger** and **Laura A. Plummer** forged the best virtual reunion ever! Virtual beer tents were a high-light. Breakout rooms of Gund dorm, southern California alums and then a few random ones gave me connection and warmth I had been missing and craving." Gina is treasuring time with 27-year-old daughter Meredith, visiting from Brooklyn, and fourth child Maggie's high school senior year, conducted online. "We have grown so close through coping with all of these unknowns," she writes. "My greatest sorrows are also what keep me whole — my work in pediatric palliative care with children who are dying. Limiting visitors means our team becomes surrogate family members. While it's so hard to say

goodbye to a sick child, I am grateful I can comfort families, surrounding them with support. Bearing witness to how families face the end of life with dignity keeps me grounded and trying to pay it forward. Surrounded by folks bearing the unbearable, I know I am blessed and called to bring them hope." **David J. Mosey**, Pittsburgh, writes, "In my first class note I'm choosing to see my glass as half-full despite my thirst for human contact. Grateful for Kenyon-oriented Zoom meetings whose ease — versus hauling oneself to Gambier — opened the door to meaningful reconnections that likely wouldn't have happened otherwise. It was pure joy hearing your stories about your families, jobs and achievements. The only

back fond memories of Shakespeare lectures in Ascension, reading in the nooks of old Chalmers Library, and productions in Bolton Theater." **David N. Sheehan**, Pelham, New York, returned to teaching in the South Bronx last fall to a world vastly changed. "Most of our students are learning remotely," he writes, "so the job consists chiefly of talking at a green light on top of my computer. With a face mask on. And a face shield. At least six feet from the nearest human being. At times I'm overwhelmed by our country's situation, and although I'm grateful COVID has not directly compromised my family, I'm enraged that we find ourselves in this place. I take solace in my family, peers, students and an open media — as well

"My greatest sorrows are also what keep me whole."

— **Gina Bauman Kornfeind '85**
on her work with pediatric palliative care patients

awkward moments were the (way too) many references to my blowing up the toilet freshman year. Sorry I didn't do something to lead to more profound, intellectual memories. Thank you all." **James E. Rossman**, Brooklyn, New York, finds a silver lining of COVID in connecting more frequently with **Peter A. Propp** (in Westport) and **Eugene E. Elder** (in Charlottesville), via a virtual book club. "We are reading Hamnet," Jim notes, "which brings

as correspondence I have with a Kenyon freshman, the first from my school to attend Magic Mountain."

1986

Stephen E. Feinbloom, Westport, New York, retired from his community mental health career in Essex County, New York. "I've been hiking, biking, playing music, bingeing online content and reading way too much news," Steve writes. "This rural lifestyle suits me, and I consider

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myself very fortunate in these difficult times. I hope you are all doing very well." **Maura S. Minsky**, Brooklyn, New York, loves connecting regularly on Zoom with roommates **Elizabeth Yaghooti Collis**, **Deborah North Cartisser**, **Kate W. Stookey Haviland** and **Eleanor T. Tytus Wallace**. "Nourishing and hilarious," she sums up. "They've helped me transition to a new job, think through whether to remote-school, and find ways to keep sane." Maura is director of the Empathy Project at NYU Grossman School of Medicine (empathyproject.com). **James D. Weiss**, River Forest, Illinois, proudly reports his son **Daniel A. Weiss '24** began his freshman year at Kenyon last fall. "He's loving it — and living on second floor Lewis, down the hall from my old room." Jim's older son, Ethan, a senior at Haverford, was accepted into Teach for America for next fall.

1987
Stephanie L. Abbajay, St. Louis, reports her company, David Stine Furniture, is doing very well — "fueled no doubt by the fact that everyone is probably sick of their household furniture and wants a change," she notes. "In early 2020, we opened a larger wood shop and showroom, introduced a new line of furniture and we founded Midwest Slabs & Hardwood to sell our sustainably harvested lumber directly to the public. It's been easy to stay socially distanced out here at the farm, where we work seven days a week. Not complaining, mind you! Immensely grateful to be busy during these

crazy times." Son Oskar, a junior at Columbia College in Chicago, is majoring in fashion design, while daughter Willa, a high school junior, is stressing out about her ACT, SAT, GPA and applying to colleges next year. **Genevieve C. Bates**, Findlay, Ohio, informs that with travel restricted, she is rebuilding the house and redesigning the yard. "Putting in some lovely big trees," Geny shares. "Training two new German shepherds. Engaged to a Kenyon '86 classmate. He and I previously shared a dorm for a year, but late in life realized we are madly in love! I feel like the Princess Bride! Finally found my Westley — and he was waiting for me from Kenyon all these years." **Peter B. Luther**, Princeton, New Jersey, retired last year, having sold his company to Nestle. "Cycling, golfing and advising a private equity firm, splitting time between Princeton and Kiawah Island, South Carolina — anyone in the area, drop a line. Got a chance to play some golf with roommate **Timothy G. Ehrhart** this past summer." **Allan L. Maca Jr.**, New York City, hosts the National Geographic series "Ancient China from Above." "Episodes premiered worldwide in August and are now streamable," he informs. "We spent 40 days crisscrossing China; it was a joint effort with Chinese scientists, so we had incredible access. I hope you'll enjoy the show; let me know what you think!"

1988
Lawrence J. Apke, Hillsborough, Calif., runs a nonprofit called the Job Hackers, training

people at no cost to help them find meaningful employment. "For the past three years we've provided over \$2 million of free training," he informs. "Our participants are finding good jobs even in this pandemic. We

Aileen C. Hefferren updates, "After 25 years at Prep for Prep, the last 18 as chief executive, I stepped down in June to become the CEO and director of the Children's Museum of Manhattan. The day my new role was

Lentz and James C. Bush. "Such talent!" **Tara L. Jones**, Eugene, Oregon, shares that her summer resembled a commune. "In addition to the friends who live in the tiny home they built behind our garage, two Workaway volunteers

"I feel like the Princess Bride! Finally found my Westley — and he was waiting for me from Kenyon all these years."

— **Genevieve C. Bates '87**
on finding a storybook love in an unexpected place

even had at least one Kenyon grad join our over 1,000 participants." Larry and Zhanna have lived in the SF Bay Area for six years, currently with all three children, ages 14 to 29. "In my new 'day' job, I lead big data teams for Pacific Gas and Electric, facing numerous challenges with climate change and our California customers." **Peter O. Harper**, Maplewood, New Jersey, submits: "First off, a big thanks to **Jeffrey A. Richards** for posting on Facebook his walks around Gambier and commentaries on life. Entertaining and therapeutic." Peter works for Real Leaders, a publisher that collaborates with business leaders who count their people's development and needs, their communities, and the well-being of the planet alongside their profits. "If any Kenyon alums work at or run such businesses — certified B Corps would be an example — feel free to reach out to me."

announced, the New York Times featured me in the lead of an article titled, 'Could There Be a More Difficult Time to Become an Arts Leader?' Ha!" **Priscilla Perotti Ingram**, Fairfield, Connecticut, realized — once the doors to her art studio closed temporarily — how much she loves the people who walk through them every day. "A couple of things helped me," she informs. "Having our kids at home with no distractions or places to be was nothing short of amazing." The second was her painting, drawing and pottery. "To have that much time to create my own work was a gift for me." Her latest paintings hang in the Fairfield University bookstore next to her studio. At the most recent reunion, Priscilla noticed a goat at the Kenyon Farm, was taken by its expression and made a painting of it. She recommends the Instagrams of **Catherine R. (Robin)**

joined us. Tristan lives in her converted shuttle bus across the street, and Adriane stays in our guest room. In exchange for use of our bathroom, kitchen and laundry machines, Tristan helps in the garden and built an herb-drying cabinet from salvaged materials. In exchange for room and board, Adriane cooks — we have our very own personal paleo chef. Another Workaway volunteer, Julia, pitched a tent under our apple tree and transformed our chaotic garage into a place of beauty and order. We fit in one last kayak trip down the Willamette and one last outdoor concert before the rains began. In other words, we managed to have sweet, busy lives filled with good friends despite the pandemic and fires." **Melissa J. (Henderson) Koenig**, Glen Ellyn, Illinois, participated in the Winter World Masters Games in Innsbruck, Austria, in January 2020, placing second in

her age group in short track speedskating in the 500, 1,000 and 1,500 meters and fourth overall on a mixed relay team. "We just missed third overall when I was caught at the line by a former Olympian from Germany," Melissa reports. "It was great fun and seems now like such a lifetime ago. With most speedskating canceled, I've turned my attention to ramping up my involvement in dog sports — particularly mushing — with my two-and-a-half-year-old Siberian." In her "real life," Melissa says, she is the director of instructional technology at DePaul University in Chicago. **Charles M. Walch**, St. Louis, jotted the pluses and minuses of middle age: "The good: kids are grown, employed and out of the house. Sold my business, 1st Choice Delivery, and started a biotech company called Pluton Biosciences. Diana and I approach our 30th anniversary." As for the bad, Charlie lost his father and both in-laws in the past two years. "Providing end-of-life care to your parents is tough, heartbreaking, yet oddly rewarding."

1989

Teresa Krug Cordon, Wilmington, North Carolina, writes, "Inspired to reach out for the first time to share that I'm on a journey to understand, bring awareness to, and support ADHD folk. I'm also in my 21st year of teaching (mostly English, now Spanish) and advocate for clean beauty on the side!" **Joan O'Hanlon Curry**, Ossining, New York, shares her best moment of 2020: watching her son Aidan be recruited

by baseball's Texas Rangers. "It was a total whirlwind. A crazy two weeks. He ended up signing as an undrafted free agent and entered an instructional league in Surprise, Arizona. He has a few years of hard work ahead to hopefully make it to the majors. But if COVID has taught us anything, it's to go for your dreams if you get the opportunity." **Kristen (Bruno) McClusky**, Montclair, New Jersey, updates, "After many years of mothering and free-lancing I started a job at Apple News in January. I'm in the N.Y. office but — in non-COVID times at least — will visit the Bay Area often for work. The girls are growing fast — two teens now! Was sad to miss SAIEW." **Sarah Wilsman**, Solon, Ohio, works for OverDrive's education division. "Unsurprisingly, it's the busiest we've ever been, getting digital titles to schools for remote learning," she reports. "Zoom fatigue is real. Pro tip: Teachers and librarians, please do not write your work emails in purple Comic Sans — a sure sign that it's time to retire."

1990s

1990

Thaddeus C. Camp, Tucson, Arizona, reports that his teaching position at the University of Arizona "was a victim of COVID, but that means I can now finally commit to inverting what my teachers used to write on my report cards. Rather than 'stop doodling' and 'pay attention,' I've decided to stop paying attention and focus on my 'doodling.'" Thad is sharing his art, mostly oil paintings, in Tucson

and Phoenix and at thaddeuscamp.com. "I continue to live in Tucson with my front-line, kick-butt pediatrician wife, Rachel, and our daughter Phoebe (5)." **Martin P. Dockery** hunkers down in Montauk, New York, "at, seemingly, the end of the Earth (which is fitting)," he reports. "Growing a beard and hanging out with my 2-year-old daughter, for whom life seems blissfully unchanged. Every six weeks via Facebook Live, I've been broadcasting a new monologue about this social distancing head trip. I put the shows up on YouTube afterward." View one from September at: https://youtu.be/LtznUYzY_8." **Julia Griner**, Rome, Italy, informs that although Italy was an early scary example for the rest of Europe

trees. "All organic and all available to anyone who wants a 'farm stay' experience when you are next in Italy."

1991

Anthony H. Jones, moved to Naugatuck, Connecticut, after a break from restaurant work. "After some reflection, my wife and I decided that we were no longer interested in living in the NYC area. I spend most of my time lately painting rooms and having discussions about septic systems. I also bought a chain saw. It's pretty cool." **Christopher (Myott) Kaufman Ilstrup**, Montpelier, Vermont, updates, "It's been quite a year at Vermont Humanities, where we spend much of our time advocating for pandemic relief for the cultural sector, hoping to prevent the loss of

"I bought a chain saw.
It's pretty cool."

— **Anthony J. Jones '91**, on developing new hobbies in quarantine

and the Americas, "Italians managed to follow the rules enough to be out of the house after our first 70 days. Thankfully, we are well, but our little cooking school is struggling. We are grateful for all our students who came back to take online lessons with us, which has helped pay the bills somewhat." Julia's new adventure in food and sustainability involves a property north of Rome with over 100 olive trees for oil production as well as fruit and nut

our wonderful historic buildings, museums, performance spaces, libraries and galleries. It's a struggle but we carry on, mostly on Zoom. Sigh. At home, we're learning how to live on top of each other 24/7, but we're also committed to helping our community stay safe. Wear masks, everyone!" **Michael R. Sering**, Cleveland Heights, Ohio, describes how challenging COVID-19 is for a men's homeless shelter. "I've adapted by relocating

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300 people to three hotels we now manage. That reduced our census to 160, allows for social distancing, and we are running at a positive test rate under 4 percent. We give out masks and announce 'wash your hands' multiple times a day!" The Cleveland Leadership Center named Michael

1992
Evangeline Lynn Calland, a palliative hospital chaplain in Charlottesville, Virginia, continues dedicating herself to diversity, equity and inclusion in health care; and the role of intergenerational trauma in health, grief and loss. "Grateful I

1993
Gabriel A. Alegria celebrates his two little ones, Natalia (5) and Oliver (3), who've moved with him across the Hudson to Jersey City, New Jersey. "Will be moving back to Peru semi-permanently in 2022," he notes. Gabriel is still recording and touring with the Afro-Peruvian Sextet (afroperuviansextet.com), whose latest recording, "Social Distancing," dropped on Jan. 29. "I don't believe we used to say 'drop' back in the day. I've also taken the job of jazz studies director at NJCU." **Jennifer E. Carter**, Columbus, Ohio, updates that in her quest to visit 50 states, she and **Gwyndolyn E. "Gwynn" (Evans) Harrison '94** knocked out Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont in August: "Great lobster, hiking and swimming!" **Peter C. Meilaender**, Houghton, New York, was named a visiting professor at the American Enterprise Institute's Initiative on Faith and Public Life. He has written, "I am particularly interested in how Christianity offers a vision that is at once appreciative of particular loyalties, such as those to one's own country and its culture, but also open to and interested in the kingdom of God in all its diversity and richness, including the flourishing of other countries and cultures."

essays about traveling the world in the Italian foreign service. "**Claire Laverge Pettitt** and I walk our dogs on Ocean Beach (my dog is from Mount Vernon!), and I'm hoping for visits from **Mary C. Hall Mennes, Darnell Preaus Heywood** and **Aline Kelley Thompson**." Follow her at sheilapierce.com: "No matter where I end up, I often say — and always believe! — that all roads lead to Ohio!" **Ravana Wijeyeratne**, Hantana, Sri Lanka, updates, "My dream of retiring before 50 came true — not by choice, but from insane pressure of financial-sector mergers and takeovers that made me exit the company where I've been CEO since 2007." Ravi got out the winter before the pandemic — "a relatively better time to sell! Other than focusing on my golf swing and looking out for better scuba destinations, not much to do!" **Keely (Price) Wilczek**, Somerville, Massachusetts, is manager of user services and engagement at the Harvard Kennedy School Library. "I have been learning how to do a job virtually that was very much in person," she writes, "including answering student questions about research and citation while crossing the street in Harvard Square." Keely eagerly anticipates seeing the new Chalmers Library once it's complete, but will miss the old building where she started her library career.

1995
David J. Bouman and his wife returned to Washington, D.C., after several years in Kyiv, Ukraine, with the U.S. State Department.

"No matter where I end up, I often say — and always believe! — that all roads lead to Ohio!"

— Sheila Pierce Ortona '94

a "Fresh Innovator" for his strategies to end homelessness. "A pandemic is the perfect time to emphasize housing as the solution to homelessness!" he observes. **Lisa Timmel** reports that when her Edinburgh Festival-bound show was canceled due to the pandemic, she launched an oral history project called Theater-19 (theater19.org). "It documents the experiences of theater workers during the near complete shut-down of our industry. Our focus is on early and mid-career artists and administrators." Lisa recently interviewed **Nina J. Samaan '20** and will check back with all interviewees over four years to document pandemic-related changes to their lives and work. "It has been heartbreaking and uplifting, if that makes any sense. I am lucky to say my family remains healthy and safe in New York City."

have a yard to work in and outdoor trails to enjoy with my dogs," Vonnie writes. "My kids, Will (22) and Julia (20), are adapting with as much grace as they can to changed college and work routines. I have a partner who lives on the Western Slope of Colorado, and I spend as much time as I can in the Rockies with him. Maybe life will converge in such a way that I can move there in the next year." **Heather G. Peske**, Arlington, Massachusetts, reports she is thinking of Kenyon friends during this strange time. As senior associate commissioner in the Center for Instructional Support at the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, Heather supports schools as they provide students with the best learning possible, despite many current challenges.

1994
Sheila Pierce Ortona, in her fifth year in San Francisco, has endured both COVID restrictions and bad air quality from wildfires. This summer her family will return to Rome, Italy, and she is assembling a book of

He writes, "**Giles M. Roblyer '96** and his son and I saw a bear while backpacking in West Virginia in May. In July I caught up with **Benjamin H. Douglass '98, Laurie (Danner) Douglass '98** and **Amy E. Danner '98** the day they finished a bike trip from Gambier to Alexandria, Virginia. We road-tripped to the Pacific Northwest for a few weeks of remote work and got to see **Brian J. Binge** and **Kendra S. Carpenter, Shannon B. Wilkinson** and **Laura (Baker) Wilkinson '99**, and **Neil A. Butler** and their families." **Michael S. Epstein**, Cincinnati, shares his perspective on crisis: "For 21 years I have run business continuity programs. With over 800 incidents managed or overseen globally, I've dealt with disruptions from hurricanes and earthquakes to active shooters and vehicles used as door openers. I've drilled responses to so many types of natural and human-caused disasters. COVID has been my Frankenstein combination of Super Bowl and Tour de France. Intense and fast-moving at first, then grinding and relentless. Through it all, **Mary M. Mason** has been that smiling face when I come up from my basement workspace. This fall we celebrated 28 years since our first official 'date' at the Phi Kap holiday formal. Kenyon gave me the intellectual tools I rely upon every day to help steer my company through this pandemic." **Katharine B. Rucker Sears** deployed to her Navy patrol squadron in Kadena, Japan, in August, but she's been

able to join weekly video chats with **Alexa D. O'Brien, Natasha Carrasco Stillman, Hilary Wood Koch, Heide J. Schaffner** and **Shelley Wharton Smith**. "These ladies are incredible," Katharine writes, "and kept me sane during 18 days of restricted movement after my arrival and confinement to a barracks room." Katharine assumed command on Oct. 1, becoming the 37th commanding officer of the squadron of 350 sailors. With the change-of-command ceremony done virtually, Heide and **Nancy Johnson Lapke** were able to dial in as guests. **Hilary Wood Koch**, Waterville, Maine, submits what she says is her first class note ever: "I married my Kenyon College sweetheart, **Arne Koch**, after graduation. We live in Maine and have two boys (both now teens). I taught for many years, but I left teaching to be the primary caregiver for our youngest son, who has hydrocephalus and type 1 diabetes. I joined an international open-source medical project and built my son an artificial pancreas system, which has effectively managed his diabetes for almost four years. My advocacy for his health concerns led me to advocate at the state level for legislation aimed at making health care and prescription drugs more accessible and affordable." In November, Hillary garnered 8,819 votes out of 20,236 total in her unsuccessful bid for a state senate seat.

1996

Jessica C. Banks reports she is "growing roots" in London, U.K.:



WHEN IN ...

Washington, D.C.

LEXIE SEIDEL '18

MAJOR AT KENYON: Psychology

CITY OF BIRTH: Mt. Kisco, New York

OCCUPATION: Kindergarten teacher

HOW LONG HAVE YOU LIVED IN D.C.? 2.5 years

WHAT BROUGHT YOU HERE? Graduate degree and work

BEST PART OF LIVING IN D.C.: Food culture!

WORST PART OF LIVING IN D.C.: Is there one?

A PLACE IN D.C. THAT REMINDS YOU MOST OF KENYON: National Mall is the United States' version of Middle Path.

BEST HIDDEN GEM IN YOUR CITY: The culinary hub Union Market.

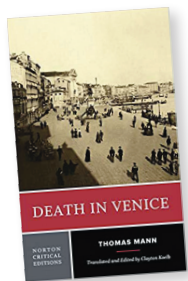
LOCAL BUSINESS YOU ENJOY SUPPORTING DURING THE PANDEMIC: Restaurants that are owned by families of children in my class! Walters Sports Bar and Nina May are my personal favorites.

BEST RESTAURANT TAKE-OUT/DELIVERY IN D.C.: Due South for the best Southern comfort food around.

FAVORITE PANDEMIC-SAFE LEISURE ACTIVITY: Outdoor spin classes

ANYTHING ELSE? One of my favorite things to do (pre-pandemic) is to chat with new people while I'm out and about to hear their connections to the different neighborhoods. Each one can be so vastly different from another that is two blocks away. I love being able to walk through a block of all restaurants that then run into all historical brownstones. It's truly incredible.

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BOOK THAT CHANGED MY LIFE

"Death in Venice"
by Thomas Mann

I remember reading "Death in Venice" late one night for my freshman year Integrated Program in Humane Studies (IPHS) introductory course, and leaping out of bed as I realized the book was depicting feelings I'd had for years but hadn't put a name to. It was amazing to read a respected, classic work of fiction that showed a man in love with another man, and it made me feel like I wasn't alone. Every few years I reread "Death in Venice" and remember how it helped me acknowledge and accept who I am.

— **Charles Green '00**
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND

"No kids but have a kundalini yoga studio and a meditation app, a prototype for a much bigger, more dynamic version currently in development. Tech wizardry is not my area of expertise, but it's been an interesting journey exploring the potential for tech to support mental health and well-being. It's been a while since I've seen anyone from our class. Hoping to reconnect in person or online soon!" **Paul A. Bonvallet** teaches organic chemistry at the College of Wooster and is glad to have finished his term as department chair. "I'm still chief reader of the AP chemistry program," he informs. "Nobody ever knows what that means, so I tell people I write and supervise the scoring of 160,000+ AP exams across the world, which is pretty close to the truth." Paul's daughter started college last fall. "We thought that the hardest work was behind us after she earned a soccer scholarship in a Division I program, but then the global pandemic hit. Our son is an active high school athlete and drummer in the band; he's got talent, but I'm not sure whether it came from me. We still take the family to Gambier from time to time and hope to stay in Ohio for many years to come." **Jessica E. Sukov Orenstein**, who

swore she would never leave California except for college, finds herself relocated to south-eastern Connecticut. "Despite COVID, we bought a home sight unseen, drove across the country (without having secured jobs) with three dogs — and here we are, loving it!"

1997

Colette Pichon Battle works on climate change issues in Slidell, Louisiana, her hometown. "My family remains displaced in the Dallas/Fort Worth area since Katrina, 15 years ago," CoCo updates. "I'm no longer married and no kids — but I've got several youngsters in the family to love on and boss around from time to time. My job is to ensure that they all know where they come from — and, most important, how to peel shrimp and crawfish." CoCo runs a law and policy nonprofit fighting for climate justice and racial justice across the five Gulf states of Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama and Florida. Now in the leadership of the Movement for Black Lives, she anchors its climate agenda. "Every day I wake up ready to fight for a better world. Every evening I pray that we get a little more time to make things right."

Lindsay Buchanan Burke, Arlington, Virginia, practices law with Covington &

Burling in Washington, D.C., now from her home office, while overseeing the virtual schooling of three kids in the next room. "As an employment lawyer advising many of the world's largest companies, I've been at the center of employers' responses to #MeToo, Black Lives Matter and the coronavirus pandemic," she informs. "It's been a busy and exciting time." **Dwight K. Schultheis**, Brookline, Massachusetts, reports that having his fifth- and sixth-grade kids in virtual school livens up working from home. "We caved to their pressure in October and got a puppy, a five-pound Cavachon," Dwight updates. "Very different from our previous dog, who topped the scales at 90 pounds." Dwight started a new job in corporate strategy at CVS Health, helping launch COVID testing at more than 4,000 CVS locations. "Apart from work and family, I've done my fair share of binge watching and would recommend 'Ozarks,' 'The Bureau' and 'Hanna.'"

1998

Alicia R. Baker writes from Turkmenistan, where she has begun a new career as a diplomat/medical provider with the U.S. State Department. Since being emancipated from her 14-day quarantine upon arrival in Ashgabat, she has been learning more about the country and how best to support fellow Americans there. **Jack J. Dreher**, Brentwood, Tennessee, completed his master's in human development counseling with a clinical focus at Vanderbilt University's Peabody College. "Since May I

have been working as a clinical/crisis counselor with a dialectical behavior therapy practice in Nashville, leading trauma-informed workshops on racial and social injustice." Jack started a two-year training in advanced psychodynamic psychotherapy through the American Association of Sexuality Educators, Counselors and Therapists. **Kathryn Kerr Fitzsimmons**, Lansing, Michigan, and her husband enjoyed a week in Cartagena, Colombia, in February 2020. "Spectacular city," she writes. "Returned to abysmal cold and gray and Michigan's COVID shutdown." They quarantined at their cottage on Lake Charlevoix and, as of October, remained there. "Working remotely has had many benefits," Kathryn explains. "Time with family and a slower pace. I have enjoyed a number of Zoom happy hours with **Megan Grannis Blackmer**, **Ali St. Vincent Von Kennel**, **Lauren Weymouth**, **Kristina Racek Pechulis** and **Kiely Gallagher Nivaud**." **Jonathan E. Keeling**, Columbus, Ohio, updates, "After serving as press secretary for Gov. John Kasich, I joined Ohio's chief elections officer, Secretary of State Frank LaRose, as his communication director. I'm still residing in Columbus and doing my best to balance being a full-time single dad to two awesome little girls doing virtual schooling, while running a communications team during the craziest election in memory." **Lauren Weymouth** works in financial technology in San Francisco, where she lives with her wife and 4-year old. "Beyond the chaos of 2020," she

What changed your life?

For a chance to be featured in this section, email editor@kenyon.edu and tell us about the movies, books, music and other things that have enhanced your life.

shares, “the air quality from constant California fires has been really rough to navigate. My silver lining is hosting Ripple’s new podcast, ‘All About Blockchain.’ It highlights global scholars’ adaptive research and applications being built on chain. Episodes dive into blockchain for good, featuring academics using technology to solve real challenges in health care, energy, land management and real estate, environment and agriculture.” Lauren invites your feedback once you listen on Apple, Spotify, Google or other platforms.

1999

Shannon A. Byrne, Durham, North Carolina, works as a psychologist at Duke Health, describing “y’all” as officially part of her vocabulary after eight years in the region. “I’m adjusting to doing telehealth during the pandemic and appreciating lunch periods with my dog. Find me on Facebook!” **Adam G. Donaldson**, Jamestown, Rhode Island, recalls, “At a Kenyon career fair, I met an AmeriCorps recruiter and spent a year volunteering in Columbus schools. So grateful for that happenstance. In this unusual 2020, I am leading ServeRI, my home state’s AmeriCorps agency, bringing people together to address community needs — distance learning, food insecurity and COVID response. It’s humbling to be that recruiter now and to promote service opportunities for others.” **Kate Druschel Griffin**, Bethesda, Maryland, joined a financial technology startup creating a new

product for the millions of Americans without bank accounts. “Tough year to start a business, and it’s been a roller coaster,” Kate writes, but BrightFi launched by the end of the year. “This international studies major never thought she’d start a tech career in her forties!” **Zachary Nowak**, Cambridge, Massachusetts, teaches the Harvard History Department’s biggest class, on the history of college sports. Zach has enjoyed seeing his Kenyon buddies for Sunday Zoom calls.

2000s

2000

Elizabeth A. Yates Keizner updates, “It’s been a challenging time in New York City, to put it mildly, but I’m thankful that my family — husband Anthony, son James and daughter Alexandra — are all healthy and well, and we’re committed to staying here. James is now in first grade at our local public school, and Alexandra will join him there in pre-K next fall. In the past few months I’ve published a few pieces on the humor websites McSweeney’s and Little Old Lady Comedy and hope to continue doing that.” **Emily Anne Leachman**, Charlotte, North Carolina, enjoys working as a library manager at the local community college, although serving the public from home is challenging, she says. Emily, husband Alejandro and 7-year-old Elliot added a fish tank to the family. “My best stress relief during the pandemic has been making quilts,” she reports, “a hobby I started at the Craft Center at

“This international studies major never thought she’d start a tech career in her forties!”

— **Kate Druschel Griffin '99**, on joining a financial technology startup

Kenyon. Like much of my time at Kenyon, it stayed with me long after leaving Gambier.”

2001

Daniel J. Connolly, Memphis, Tennessee, a reporter for The Commercial Appeal newspaper for 14 years, recently finished a project for USA Today about sexual abuse in competitive cheerleading. “I worked with a stellar team of journalists, including Marisa Kwiatkowski, who exposed the abuse of Dr. Larry Nassar, the now-notorious gymnastics doctor. I’ve also been writing a lot about the pandemic and the election.” Daniel celebrated his second anniversary with wife Ayleem, who is teaching Spanish via video from home. **Beth A. Harrod**, Cleveland Heights, Ohio, is an ICU nurse at MetroHealth Medical Center in Cleveland. “Taking care of COVID patients has been extremely hard,” she reports, “but I love my job and am continuously learning more each day.” **Andrew W. Kahrl**, Charlottesville, Virginia, was promoted to full professor in the departments of History and African American and African Studies at the University of Virginia. **Aleka E. Kostouros**, Philadelphia, is a

behavioral health consultant in a community health clinic. “Between COVID and civil unrest, this year has been challenging and eye-opening, to say the least,” she informs. “So much grief. So much anger. So much fear and anxiety. I’ve been in the clinic the whole time, though mostly doing sessions over the phone, which has been an adjustment. It’s been a privilege to be able to serve and bear witness, and I’m super grateful for a wonderful supervisor and team, but it can be taxing. To recharge, I take day trips to parks and small towns outside Philadelphia with my boyfriend, grateful for small things.”

Andreana C. Prichard, Oklahoma City, and her husband, Patrick, welcomed their first baby, Theo, the week lockdowns started. They’ve enjoyed a lot of time together as a family since. Andreana is an associate professor at the University of Oklahoma; Patrick is in public health.

2002

Nora E. Colburn moved back home to Columbus, Ohio, to join the faculty at OSU Wexner Medical Center in the Division of Infectious Diseases and Department of Clinical Epidemiology. “I am so thankful I work with an

incredible team during the pandemic," Nora reports. "In the midst of dealing with COVID, I gave birth to my son, Aiden, in July. I never dreamed I would be a pregnant ID doctor and epidemiologist during an unprecedented global pandemic! Thankfully, maternity leave has been very quiet and restful!"

James J. Greenwood, Stow, Ohio, defended his dissertation in May, completing his Boston College doctoral program. "After nearly 20 years at independent schools in New England," he reports, "I returned home to northeastern Ohio and accepted a position as dean of diversity, equity and inclusion at Western Reserve Academy in Hudson, Ohio." James enjoyed his fourth and final year on the Kenyon College Alumni Council as past president. **Cathleen C. (Norian) Koch**, Long Beach, California, celebrates the big news that she "welcomed a Class of 2038 women's soccer player to the world this year." Wearing her purple Kenyon soccer onesie, Kenyon baby socks and gold headband gifted to her by **Maureen C. Collins '03** and **Elizabeth Twerdahl Stankus**, she's "ready to join the team," Cate writes.

2003

Natalie Philpot, Manchester Center, Vermont, reports she is "trying to raise my daughters with grace and dignity in this uncertain world. Being a single mom has its challenges on a normal day. Throw in a global pandemic, and the daily anxiety becomes exponentially more palpable. Despite the world feeling like it is ending, my girls and I are doing well." Natalie is the programs coordinator for a nonprofit that creates substance-free programming for youth, having completed her Vermont Recovery Coach Certification this year "to give back and help the next person who may be struggling with substance misuse."

Danielle N. Tandet, New York City, and her husband traveled with a group called Honeymoon Israel. "Sort of like Birthright, but for married couples," she informs. "Awesome trip that I highly recommend for those who fit the criteria. The rabbi who accompanied us was **Rabbi Andru Kahn '06**. We didn't know each other at Kenyon but have mutual friends. It was fun to reminisce about the Hill while in Israel."

2004

Mara D. Bernstein, Bloomington, Indiana,

misses working in person with her colleagues at Indiana University Libraries. She is the president of the Indiana University LGBTQ+ Alumni Association.

"Amazing opportunity to connect with the IU LGBTQ+ community in support of each other and the university," Mara writes. "It's giving me great ideas for Kenyon, too! My wife, Jada Bee, and I devote a lot of time to Black Lives Matter Bloomington and the People's Cooperative Market to bring locally produced food into food-insecure homes. We are busy but doing all we can to make our community more equitable and sustainable!"

Brooke R. Johnson, Telluride, Colorado, started Tumbleweed Travel Co. (tumbleweedtravelco.com), an organizer of turnkey RV vacations throughout the U.S. and Canada, specializing in national parks travel. Brooke, who has been in the adventure travel industry since graduation, decided to go out on her own. "One of my first clients was **Barbara 'BJ' Morgan-Fedor** and **Nicholas M. Fedor '03**," she writes.

2005

Bethany R. (Anderson) Johns, Silver Spring, Maryland, works at the Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities with vice presidents of research to advance science policy. "I recently met **Ryan P. Muzzio '18**, a fellow physics major, who testified at a Capitol Hill hearing I helped organize," she reports. "We had a wonderful time reminiscing about Kenyon and our professors." **Catherine E. (Papai) McMillin**, Westerville, Ohio, shares,

"Every time fall rolls around, I miss the Hill more. The colors have brightened the gray of life during the pandemic. I have three delightful children who have certainly made their presence and energy felt! This year, I've moved into almost full-time instructional coaching and have also enjoyed sharing all of my voting and election knowledge from my years as a government teacher. Life is full, but not fully virtual!"

Eric J. Raicovich, New York City, was bummed to miss out on reunion shenanigans last year. "Looking forward to the next go-round whenever we can all be together again on the Hill. Little else to report. No wedding, no kids. Life is good." Eric is finishing his first year at Facebook and is "thankful for '05 Kenyonites in the city, including **Phoebe L. Plagens**, **Claire T. McGinnis**, **Ashley W. Fitch**, **Allison B. Lebar**, **Philip A. Cooke**, **Meghan D. Rohan**, **Elizabeth Aragona Haines**, **Catherine 'Cecil' Howell** (when we can track her down) and **Rebecca L. Frank** and **Brian M. Porter '02**.

Look forward to continuing our annual traditions no matter what curveballs the world throws at us." **Kelly A. Smallwood Stowe** relocated mid-pandemic to greater Boston for a new job at the Volpe National Transportation Systems Center and updates, "I'm working on transportation research and analysis projects for a variety of government agencies. Very interesting, given the massive transition to remote work for much of the American workforce. Also a very interesting

"I never dreamed I would be a pregnant ID doctor and epidemiologist during a global pandemic!"

— **Nora E. Colburn '02**

time to parent school-aged children. We opted to home-school, which has turned out to be the best decision for our family. Technology is good for many things, but our first- and second-graders have benefited tremendously from the one-on-one attention they're receiving from their home-school teacher — my husband, **Kimberly (Moore) Waggoner** shares her first class note: "Fifteen years married to Mount Vernon Nazarene University alum Todd Waggoner, with a daughter, Louisa Frances (2). After post-college stints in Germany, D.C. and Nashville, we are building a house in Westfield, Indiana." Kim has been working remotely as a contractor for the U.S. State Department for a decade. "My in-laws still live in Mount Vernon," she adds, "so we visit Kenyon often. It's amazing how much things have changed in Gambier!"

2006

John D. Sadoff, Somerville, Massachusetts, reports that his chess tutoring business, "ChessMate Tutors," is all online. "I'm still running as much as I can." Johnny reminds Kenyon alums in the Boston area he is "always up for a game of chess." **Annie Valuska**, St. Louis, enjoys her "dream job" as an animal behaviorist at Purina and shares, "In the Before Times, I was acting with several St. Louis theater groups, but now my favorite quarantine hobby is decorating sugar cookies (shameless plug: @zoeyscookies on IG) to the dulcet tones of some grisly true crime podcast

or absolute garbage reality television."

2007

Margaret M. (Niehaus-Sauter) Fuchs moved to Shaker Heights, Ohio, with Andy Fuchs and baby Henry. Margaret is a cardiologist at the Cleveland Clinic, caring for patients with adult congenital heart disease. Finishing his master's degree in teaching mathematics, Andy has been tasked with fixing up the house. "We are excited to see friends once the pandemic concludes," she writes. **Lisa A. Hamer** and her partner, Ifeanyi Okeke, are enjoying their life in Taos, New Mexico, where Lisa, a felony public defender for Taos County, was recently appointed to the Drug Court Task Force. "We have been enjoying the Land of Enchantment, where social distancing has been easy to come by in the 5,000 square miles of national forest surrounding our new home," she updates.

Lauren C. Ostberg is a lawyer in Hadley, Massachusetts, in the western part of the state. She is trying to make more time to write. Weekly prompts and pieces exchanged with **Amy Strieter** are of help, she writes, "and I'm vaguely pursuing my aspirations in local government and public radio. **Benjamin F. Taylor** is still here, too, composing, doing web development and being as delightful as he is tall."

2008

Shannon Deoul, Los Angeles, connected with **Kate Hellman Miller** and her family in Florida last February when they were visiting at the same time. Shannon

and **Andrew Pankin** attended **Stephanie Hemmingson's** wedding in Portland, Oregon, on Leap Day 2020. Shannon officiated, with many Kenyon friends in attendance, including **Susanna M. "Zannie" Carlson**, **Colleen P. (Halpin) Kelly**, **Elisa B. Garcia**, **Ryan M. Pearce**, **Christopher D. Holden**, **Ben L. Peterson** and **Alexander W. Boivin '09**. **Thomas Dickson**, Soquel, California, and **Brian H. Dow** participated in a new season of the television series "Alone," in which each participant may bring 10 items to survive in

Forest came all too close: "We were under evacuation warning for over two weeks," Josie writes. "As a precaution, we evacuated our daughters, Ushuaia and Iguazu, to my sister's home while my husband and I stayed behind. In the midst of all the scary chaos, we experienced a great sense of community with our neighbors and had incredible support, both from our immediate family and our precious squad of Kenyon aunts and cousins, **Agnese Melbarde**, **Lauren K. Burley** and **Olga Novikova**. As we faced the possibility of

Lawrence. Jon reports that Ari loves Pink Floyd. **Paige L. Markham**, Walnut Creek, California, who runs acupuncture practices in Hawaii and California, recently launched a Chinese facial tool line named "Yang Face" (yangface.com). Yang Face honors traditional Chinese medicine, is environmentally conscious and promotes social change, she informs. "Five percent of all proceeds go to my alma mater, Punahou School, so its Hawaiian Studies program can give our youth a strong sense of self and belonging in this world," she shares,

"My favorite quarantine hobby is decorating sugar cookies to the dulcet tones of some grisly true crime podcast or absolute garbage reality television."

— **Annie Valuska '06**,
on staying occupied during the pandemic

the wilderness. T.D. brought his Kenyon belt, and Brian brought his class photo. **Maggie Kempner**, San Leandro, California, and **Victor T. Lamond** quarantined in the San Francisco Bay area, where they work for A3 (AAA's innovation lab) and Tesla. "In April 2020 we welcomed a son, Judah David Kempner Lamond (aka Jude), who has been keeping us very busy!" she updates. **Josephine (Comas Bardot) Trueblood**, Monrovia, California, reports that the Bobcat Fire in Los Angeles National

losing everything, these three incredible Ladies did a terrific job supporting and comforting us; we could not have done it without them! Our neighborhood was not lost despite the fire reaching 1,500 feet from us." Josie is a clinical research nurse in the Diabetes and Metabolic Research Institute at City of Hope.

2009

Jonathan N. Lawrence, Howard, Ohio, **Alyssa (Gomez) Lawrence '10** and daughter Evie (4) celebrate the arrival of Aurelian Arthur

noting that her journey, influenced by Kenyon professors, began during study abroad. **Max D. Reisman**, Los Angeles, sold his first movie to Universal Pictures. "This will be all the more exciting once movie theaters exist again!" he jokes.

2010s

2010

Rachel A. Burgreen, Austin, Texas, reports that quarantine led her to open a telehealth practice specializing in Radically Open Dialectical Behavior Therapy. "I'm getting

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ready to move in with my partner, Stefan, and embark on a major home renovation project to have a workspace/rental property," she informs. "Stefan came in a package deal with his sweet dog, Cali, and I'm a very happy dog mom!" **Logan M. Donaldson** and his wife moved to Omaha, Nebraska, and started new practices, he as a veterinary neurologist and she as a pediatrician. **Natalie E. West**, who works for the World Food Programme, moved to Dakar to work on nutrition and food security analyses for west Africa, but then ended up back in the U.S. for most of the spring and summer to avoid getting stuck abroad. Now back in Africa, she updates, "My new role is supposed to involve a lot of travel across the region, but instead I'm currently enjoying cautiously exploring Senegal and its abundance of (safer) outdoor activities."

2011
Liza W. Chabot splits her time between Durham, North Carolina, where her stepson lives, and Cambridge, Massachusetts, where she works for the Broad Institute. "Trying to continue making art through this crazy time, when gallery shows and in-person art events are nonexistent. Making long wish lists of travel and art plans for when this is all over." **Kathleen E. Jordan**, Los Angeles, is proud of her new show, "Teenage Bounty Hunters," available on Netflix since August. She is the writer, creator and showrunner of the comedy series, whose executive producer is nine-time Emmy nominee Jenji Kohan,

of "Orange Is the New Black" and "GLOW." **Kathleen E. (Williams) Stumbaugh**, Columbus, Ohio, updates that she married her lovely wife, Kelly. "I actually met her when Unity House did the first queer prom in Mount Vernon with the Knox GSA," Kathleen writes. "She lived in town and came to protest the protesters." Having completed her M.F.A. at Ohio University, Kathleen is community arts and engagement coordinator at Open Door Art Studio and Gallery in Grandview Heights, Ohio. "We are a nonprofit art studio that works with adults with developmental disabilities, providing them a space to create, market, display and sell artwork for a paycheck." **Christine L. (Bullock) Wendell**, Brooklyn, New York, launched a startup, Pronto Housing (prontohousing.com), which automates affordable housing leasing and compliance.

2012
Faith A. Bell, Fort Wayne, Indiana, is marketing and communications director for Mennonite Mission Network. "I speak on how faith-based organizations can produce materials for constituents with an anti-oppression lens," she informs. "For emotional support during these trying times, I read Circe and participated in the Kenyon Book Club discussion. Also, I continued crocheting a blanket I started my senior year at Kenyon that is based on 'Avatar: The Last Airbender,' a show I have been re-watching." **Finneas V. Borge** is a product consultant and software engineer in Brooklyn, New York.

Finn's work is focused on families, small business and political equity. **Jack A. Graham**, Bel Air, Maryland, married longtime girlfriend Sarah last December, shortly after being named general manager of the Aberdeen IronBirds, a single-A affiliate of the Baltimore Orioles. "We have been living in

received from alumni. **Samuel A. Warlick**, Nashville, Tennessee, a political strategist for Democratic congressional campaigns across the country, was elected executive committeeman representing District 19 in the Nashville Democratic Party. Sam updates, "After my

C. Anderson moved to Portland, Maine, in November with her new husband, Zach. "It was a very small ceremony (just us and an officiant), and we hope to celebrate safely with family and friends in summer 2021," she informs. Julia has been working for the state of Massachusetts on COVID relief for peo-

"I promise I came up with that before T-Swift, and she can't claim the name pun!"

— **Lauren E. Amrhein '13**,
on performing music under the name "Folklaure"

Maryland for five years since I first arrived for my new job with Ripken Baseball after my professional baseball career ended," he writes. "Sarah teaches second grade at a Title I school, helping to make a difference in an underprivileged district." **Alyssa N. Van Denburg** earned her Ph.D. in clinical psychology from Duke University and completed her clinical internship at Yale University School of Medicine in June. She returned to Chicago, her hometown, where she is a post-doc at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine. She researches behavioral interventions for pain in cancer patients who are experiencing chronic pain, grief and loss, infertility and insomnia; meanwhile, Alyssa serves as a primary caregiver to her mother, who is battling advanced cancer. She shares that she appreciates the support she has

previous apartment was destroyed by tornadoes, I bought a converted factory loft in a 150-year-old cotton mill in the Germantown neighborhood."

2013
Lauren E. Amrhein updates, "Due to the continued dumpster fire of 2020, I've moved back from France to New York City to spend time with family. Adjusting to reverse culture shock. Still working in remote education, which I've been doing for the past six years. Finally, everyone else understands how tiring Zoom is, and how wonderful it is to work in pajama pants." In November, Lauren released her debut EP, available on Spotify, Apple Music and Bandcamp, under the artist name Folklaure. "I promise I came up with that before T-Swift, but great minds think alike, and she can't claim the name pun!" **Julia**

ple living in congregational care settings such as group homes. **James F. Dennin** and **Heather P. Brennan '14** live in Harlem with a pug named Dolly Barkton. "I'm still working at IBM in communications for our AI business," he informs. In May 2020, after he and some friends launched HireArtists to help creatives find work during quarantine, their efforts were written up in the *New Yorker*. James also helped another friend launch a financial services company called OfColor, focused on narrowing the racial wealth gap. **Morgan E. Peele** bought a tiny house in the historical section of Philadelphia. Called a "trinity" or "bandbox" home in Philly lingo, "It's a narrow, three-story row home originally designed to serve as living quarters for servants or working-class folks between the 18th and 19th century," she informs. "I'm in love with

the narrow, twisty stairs — although it's nearly impossible to get furniture to the third floor!" **Christina A. Taliercio**, Salt Lake City, is an Embraer 175 pilot for Skywest Airlines. Tina, who recently adopted a cute cat named Waffles, likes to think she spends her time off hiking, rock climbing and mountain biking, she writes, but "mostly spends it cleaning cat hair." **Janet R. Wlody**, Brooklyn, New York, downloaded TikTok, she reports. "I speak and gesture like a Gen Z now. No cap."

2014

Gabrielle A. Giomini is "currently living her best SoCal life," she updates, while also "trekking through" a psychology doctoral internship. Brielle writes, "After finally making my way out of the closet — gosh, it was dismal in there! — I am blissfully engaged to the love of my life, Lindsay. Proud fur baby moms to three pups and a kitty. Weekends are typically spent beach hopping and soaking in those Cali vibes, protesting racial inequality, making gemstone bracelets, seeking out live music and learning to roller skate. Catch us skating down that sparkling coastline and escaping the unfathomable mess that is 2020." **Bronte L. Kastenber** is pursuing her master's in public health and humanitarian assistance at Columbia University. "Silver lining of COVID is that people stop asking me what public health is and why it's important," she writes. "I think my family deserves an award for most creative quarantine, which included building and racing boats made from recycled materials,

murder mystery games and Christmas on May 25. Take care of yourself and others, and speak out when you see injustice." **Darci K. (Marcum) Kern**, who moved home to St. Louis, updates, "I started an art series where I re-create paintings and photographs of people knitting, with myself as the subject, and share black history contemporaneous to the original art (see @darcidoesit on Instagram). Aside from that, I'm just designing knitwear, demanding justice for Breonna Taylor and thinking about putting that master's degree to work as a speech pathologist." **Rebecca E. Ogus** received her M.Div. from Berkeley Divinity School and Yale Divinity School in May 2020 and was ordained a transitional deacon in the Episcopal Church. In January, she was ordained to the priesthood. Rebecca is associate pastor for youth and young adults at Church of the Redeemer in Baltimore. When she and husband Zach moved there in July, they were delighted to find **Joseph S. Wun** living there as well. **Jeremy M. Peck** shares the following: "So 2020 has been no 2014 — let's not beat around the bush here. I don't know if a PSA is allowed in the class notes, but PSA: In Taiwan there's been virtually no COVID. No quarantine, nothing like that at all. Life has been completely normal. There's something of a Kenyon community here too, especially in Taipei. If you want to try a new country, I feel it is my duty to shepherd you. I can find you a job teaching English in 2.5 seconds — no joke. Got a new job at a skin-care company, can hook you

"I continued crocheting a blanket I started my senior year that's based on 'Avatar: The Last Airbender.'"

— **Faith A. Bell '12**, on providing herself emotional support during trying times

up with lip balm." **Anna V. Peery**, San Carlos, California, loves her software engineering job at SLAC National Accelerator Laboratory. Her current project is a smart charging infrastructure tool so California utility companies can track electric vehicle charging stations and usage. Anna lives with her partner, **Samuel L. Loomis '14**, and their two dogs, who enjoy actively participating in work-related Zoom calls. **Emily D. Torrey** accepted a Dean's Scholarship to attend Loyola University New Orleans School of Law. In August she moved there from Brooklyn mid-pandemic. "I will be pursuing a law degree focusing on social justice scholarship and clinical experience," she informs.

2015

Caroline R. Dultz, Long Island, New York, works in media marketing. Recently, she partnered pro bono with the Association for Frontotemporal Degeneration (AFTD), the charity tasked with researching and supporting those who suffer that form of early-onset dementia. The team created the #FTDHotShot Challenge, a viral social media campaign that raised more than \$50,000 from

around the world and boosted awareness of this pernicious but little-known disease. **Jacob R. Genachowski**, Washington, D.C., cites one positive of the pandemic: He's stayed in touch with classmates through the new Call of Duty game. Jake reports playing "countless hours" with **Nicholas J. Gasbarro**, **Garrison J. Anderson**, **John C. "Jack" McDonald** and **Patrick C. Brady '14**. **Jacob T. Hegge** updates that he gladly left Columbus, Ohio, for London, U.K., in 2018. "Currently working in finance and recently started tennis lessons," he informs. "Shout out to **Alyssa M. LaFrenierre**, who got me moving and did online workouts with me throughout lockdown — she's the real MVP." Alyssa, who just graduated from the Medical University of South Carolina, is now a certified and licensed physician assistant. **Christine A. Prevas** is currently pursuing a doctorate in English and comparative literature at Columbia University, with a research focus on queer gender and sexuality and the destabilization of the subject in popular horror media. Spare time includes writing essays,

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designing tabletop role-playing games and hosting a podcast with several other Kenyon alums. **Payton L. Schlicht** completed her master's and now remotely teaches a group of "goofy" fourth-graders in her hometown of Waukegan, Illinois. In her free time, she "hangs out with her puppy-size lizard, Gulliver, and the rest of my strange menagerie."

2016

Rachel K. Dragos moved to Guangzhou, China, where she teaches chemistry and physics at an international high school for English-language learners. "Being in China throughout the pandemic was an experience," she writes. "But since April 2020, I've been able to travel within China safely and teach full classrooms in

person. Trying to learn Mandarin from zero is truly humbling." **Donald A. McIlhenny**, Brooklyn, New York, edits for a U.K.-based research consultancy that studies the energy market. Aaron writes, "Reading a lot more about Big Oil than I ever expected to, but it's fascinating to have front-row seats to the geopolitics and to the energy transition as a whole. It's also making me realize more and more the importance of being in nature, using less plastic and finding ways to be more deeply connected to the wider world." **Meg M. Thornbury** moved from Longmont, Colorado, last summer and began her master's in social work at the University of Pittsburgh. "My ESA, Lupe Fiasco, is no longer a fiasco and now has a new kitten sibling named Bebop!

They're helping me heal: I got COVID-19 from my mom, **Amy Tryon Thornbury '88**, on March 13. Unfortunately, we're both long-haulers and still have symptoms. Stay masked, stay safe."

2017

Benjamin T. Adekunle-Raji II, Elkridge, Maryland, writes, "Grateful to be alive and healthy. I got married, moved into a new apartment and turned 25 in March 2020. I also transitioned from our HR division to the office of the chief information officer. Nowadays, I work on cybersecurity strategy — kind of surreal, since I had zero cybersecurity knowledge prior to June. But I dig the challenge. In summary, my life has been analyst by day, artist/theologian/ranter by night. I should probably go outside more often. I could

really use a basketball and a hoop." **Adama J. Berndt** moved from Maryland to Philadelphia with **Nontonkozo V. Mdluli '18** "as a newlywed coronavirus couple!" he shares. "We've started our first year at the University of Pennsylvania, where I'm studying in the neuroscience Ph.D. program, and Nonto is doing immunology research." **Inês A. Forjaz de Lacerda** returned to her hometown, Lisbon, Portugal, and completed a master's in comparative studies while teaching English at PaRK International School. "I recently founded the online journal and collective "Venti: Air, Experience, and Aesthetics," she informs, "along with **Jessie E. Alperin '18** and **Sarah C. Dailey '20**. Our first three issues are available at venti-journal.com." **Morgan C. Harden** returned from her Fulbright in Argentina and enrolled in the University of Chicago's Booth School of Business M.B.A. program. **Claire M. Naughton** shares that "after bopping around a bit post-grad, I'm settling into a new job in Strasbourg, France, working in a French startup as a business developer." Claire maintains her blog, *The Millennial Abroad*, on the side. "Not totally sure how I got here or where I'm going, exactly, but the ride has been pretty good so far." **Seth T. Reichert** spent a year in Bozeman, Montana, then two years in AmeriCorps in New York City and Columbus, Ohio. "I have since been hired full-time with City Year in Columbus, where I am the impact manager for a team of eight

at Linden McKinley STEM Academy," he reports. Seth lives with **Emma L. Brown** in Clintonville and "is taking things day by day." **Elana S. Spivack**, Closter, New Jersey, began a master's in science writing at NYU. "Trying to read, connect with people and write stories on all kinds of scientific findings," she notes.

2018

Eliza M. Abendroth and **Jack Marooney** continue to experience political turbulence up close in Washington, D.C.'s Capitol Hill neighborhood, she informs. "I am still at Mathematica Policy Research and working with a group of passionate colleagues to pursue more criminal and juvenile justice work." **Stephanie A. Holstein**, Hudson, New York, is an associate editor at Princeton Architectural Press. She serves as the production editor for its children's book program and select adult trade titles. She has recently acquired two books, which were to come out in fall 2021 and spring 2022. **Natalie S. Kane**, Mountain Lakes, New Jersey, submits, "As with most of us, I am not at all where I thought I would be at this point, but very grateful to continue working in theater! As the patron services associate/house manager at the Shakespeare Theatre of New Jersey, I'm proud to have helped present outdoor, socially distanced performances last summer and fall, bringing a little bit of live art to these challenging times." **Rachel E. Schafer** moved to Cleveland and started medical school at Cleveland Clinic's



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on June 30 at gift.kenyon.edu.**

Lerner College of Medicine. "Pre-COVID, I was finishing up some breast cancer research at Ohio State," she informs, "but our lab was forced to halt work in March 2020. During quarantine, like so many others, I picked up way too many crafts and fell into bread-making. Absolutely thrilled to be back in school working toward my dream."

2019

Clara L. Altfield reports, "I'm going into my second year as an assistant English teacher in a rural area of Nagasaki, Japan. It's rice-harvesting season as I write this, which is exciting! There's really nothing like fresh rice. But shout-out to Peirce rice for being a close second." **Sinclair B. Barbehenn** moved to Morocco after graduating and calls it an incredible experience: "I am currently teaching third-grade English at the American School of Tangier," Claire writes. "I love it here and am thrilled to be in such a beautiful place during this difficult time." **Jenna M. Bouquot**, Marengo, Ohio, married Brandon Korns, "the love of my life, whom I met while at Kenyon," she writes. "He works in Mount Vernon at the Ariel Corp. Our first date was at Dave's Cosmic Subs." **Eve L. Bromberg**, Brooklyn, New York, works at a tech-ed startup called Quill.org. "Because of COVID-19," she informs, "our site's traffic has been up profusely! It's a very busy time for us. I'm also completing a master's in liberal studies at CUNY's Graduate Center, where I plan to do my thesis on the intersection of race theory, existentialism and phenomenology."

Michael J. Lahanas-Calderon spent the year working in the Bay Area for Inequality Media, former Labor Secretary Robert Reich's nonprofit, he reports. "I've written and produced all sorts of content, on issues ranging from climate change to voting rights, but one of my favorite achievements was getting Robert on TikTok (@rbreich)!"

2020s

Brittany A. Beckley, Orange, New Jersey, shares a touching perspective from the uniquely unfortunate Class of 2020. "After my strange departure from Kenyon in March, I went home to New Jersey. I nursed my COVID-19-positive mother back to health from death's door, all while finishing my last semester from home. The bulk of my quarantine was spent renovating my childhood room to a more mature space. Shout-out to my Danish semester abroad for the hygge minimalism inspiration!" Brittany is now pursuing a master's in hospitality management at Temple University. **Srila H. Chadalavada** is a post-baccalaureate research fellow at the National Institute of Mental Health in Bethesda, Maryland. In her neural coding lab, she's researching the visual pathway and how it ties into decision-making and reward valuation. **Sarah C. Dailey**, Scottsdale, Arizona, and fellow alumni co-founded "Venti: Air, Experience, and Aesthetics," an online journal that considers air and atmosphere through interdisciplinary scholarship.

As senior editor, she hosts "On Air: A Venti Podcast," for which she recently interviewed Assistant Professor of English Orchid Tierney (venti-journal.com/onair). **Colleen H. Kemp** moved to Madrid, Spain, where she teaches English and science in a Spanish public school, and reports, "Madrid without the usual horde of tourists has been quiet, beautiful and not wholly unlike Gambier — because I'm living with **Rose W. Bialer**!" **India Kotis**, Brooklyn, New York, started an internship at the Lesbian Herstory Archives, cataloging the records of lesbian lives and activities for public online access. "A paper I wrote for Alex Novikoff's course on medieval Spain discussing sex and gender in Umayyad Iberia was published in Johns Hopkins University's *Macksey Journal*," India notes. **Devon G. Nothard**, Los Angeles, is a global advocacy program assistant with AIDS Healthcare Foundation. He researches policy proposals, coordinates advocacy campaigns and helps administer the group's emergency COVID-19 relief fund. **Shannon N. Paige** submitted this wistful reflection: "When people ask me why I'm so fond of my tiny college on a hill, I often share how students see sunsets. Almost every student on Middle Path looks up in unison to pause and enjoy the always-shocking beauty of an Ohio sunset. Then we'd all rush off, busy with our lives — but we made time for that pause. I hope the Class of 2020 continues to savor the quiet beauty in our lives."

Events

The Office of Alumni and Parent Engagement looks forward to resuming in-person and on-campus events this fall, along with continuing our popular virtual programming.

Find information on these and other events at kenyon.edu/alumnievents.

NOTE: All in-person events are subject to change based on COVID-19 conditions.

Pittsburgh Book Club (virtual)

JUNE 3
7 p.m. ET

Homecoming

SEPT. 24-26

Plan a fall return to campus to soak up the foliage, join the all-alumni tailgate and stay for the football game and Hall of Fame presentation. Adelante, the Latinx student association, will also celebrate its 35th anniversary.

Family Weekend

OCT. 22-24

Parents and families are welcomed back to campus to meet their students' professors and friends and hear from President Sean Decatur.

Fall Board of Trustees Meeting and Formal Dedication of Chalmers Library

OCT. 29

The new Gordon Keith Chalmers Library will welcome students in the fall. The dedication is a moment to celebrate the generous giving that helped make it possible as well as the tremendous success of the Our Path Forward campaign.

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Bulletin | In Memoriam

Randolph D. Bucey '50, on Feb. 27, 2021.
A resident of Boulder, Colorado, he was 91.

Ran was born and raised in Akron, Ohio. He majored in economics at Kenyon, served on the staff of the Collegian, participated in varsity basketball and swimming, and joined Delta Tau Delta fraternity.

After serving stateside in the U.S. Army during the Korean War, Ran made his career as an investment banker. His entire working life was spent at First Boston Corp. He ran the company's Cleveland office for many years and retired as a vice president.

While Ran embraced many philanthropic endeavors, he was most passionate about the welfare of the College. He served on the Alumni Council and the Kenyon Fund Executive Committee; as an admissions, campaign, career-counseling and reunion-planning volunteer; and as an extern sponsor. A former member of the board, he was made an emeritus trustee in 1976.

Ran's deep and genuine love for and commitment to the College was recognized in 1967 with the Gregg Cup, Kenyon's highest alumni honor, and in 1984 with the Extern Sponsor Award. He also received the Cleveland Regional Association's Outstanding Achievement Award in 1994.

The definition of gregarious, Ran will be remembered for his storytelling, sense of humor and bellowing laugh.

Ran is survived by nephew **David R. Bucey '79 P'11** (and his wife, **Anne Currey Bucey '78 P'11**, and daughter **Rachel A. Bucey '11**) and niece **Andrea L. Bucey-Tikkanen '89**. Memorial donations may be made to the Randolph Bucey Memorial Fund at the College.

James J. Lynch '51, on Oct. 25, 2020.
He was 91 and a resident of Howard, Ohio.

Born in Frostburg, Maryland, Jim grew up in Gambier and graduated from Gambier High School. Although he majored in mathematics at Kenyon and joined the Middle Kenyon Association, he left the College before graduating.

Jim began his professional career with F.W. Woolworth Co., where he worked up to the position of store manager. He left Woolworth to take a manager position with the Scotts (later TG&Y) five-and-dime stores and won promotion to district manager before leaving TG&Y to open his own Ben Franklin Store near Erie, Pennsylvania, in the town of Fairview. He lived in the Erie vicinity for 41 years, also working in commercial real estate, before moving to Apple Valley, near Kenyon in the village of Howard, in 2010.

Jim's hobbies were hunting, fishing and boating. Other interests included the Erie Yacht Club and the Exchange Club, both of which he served as an officer, and Maennerchor.

Jim is survived by son **Christopher M. Lynch '77**.

Standish Henning '53, on Feb. 20, 2021.
He was 88 and a resident of Madison, Wisconsin.

Born in South Dakota, a son of the **Rev. Donald Henning '31**, he followed his father to Kenyon, where he majored in English, served on the staff of the Collegian and joined Psi Upsilon fraternity. Transferring after two years to the University

of the South, he received his bachelor's degree from Sewanee and then proceeded to Harvard University, where he earned a doctorate in English.

Stan joined the Department of English at the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1960 as a specialist in Shakespeare, early English literature and the Bible as literature, and was instrumental in helping introduce "Writing across the Curriculum" to the campus. He served as the departmental director of the graduate division in the 1970s and as associate department chair from 1990 to 1996.

Awarded the university's Distinguished Teaching Award in 1987, Stan went on to win its first College of Letters and Sciences Distinguished Service Award upon his retirement in 1999. A longtime member of Madison's Grace Episcopal Church, he served it over the years in most of the roles not reserved for the clergy.

James F. Hoyle '53 P'81, on Jan. 11, 2021.
A resident of Rochester, Michigan, he was 89.

Jim, the son of English and Scottish immigrants, grew up in Cornwall, New York. He majored in English at Kenyon, where he joined the Archon Society and graduated summa cum laude, with membership in Phi Beta Kappa.

After earning a doctorate in English at Princeton University, Jim joined the U.S. Army and was stationed in Stuttgart, West Germany. After returning to the U.S., he joined the English faculties at Kenyon, the Eastman School of Music and finally Oakland University, from which he retired in 1997 with emeritus status.

In the latter part of his career, Jim studied ancient Greek and Hebrew and developed and taught a course on "The Bible as Literature" at Oakland.

He was a happy traveler, exploring both America and Europe by car. Throughout his life, he was an eloquent letter writer.

Jim is survived by son **David C. Hoyle '81**.

William J. Wainwright '57, on Nov. 5, 2020. A resident of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, he was 85.

Bill, who was born in Kokomo, Indiana, spent most of his childhood in Connersville, Indiana, and Kirkwood, Missouri. At Kenyon, he majored in philosophy, sang with the choir and in other groups, served as president of the Philosophy Club and Student Council, and joined Beta Theta Pi fraternity. He graduated summa cum laude, with high honors in his major and membership in Phi Beta Kappa.

After earning a doctorate in philosophy at the University of Michigan, Bill entered the professoriate. His early years of teaching were at Dartmouth College and the University of Illinois. In 1968, he accepted a position in the Department of Philosophy at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee (UWM), where he remained until his retirement.

Bill was named a distinguished professor at UWM. After his retirement and designation as professor emeritus, he received the Ernest Spaight's Plaza Award, the university's highest honor, for significant and lasting contributions to UWM.

Bill published numerous articles and 13 books over the course of his career. The latter included "Reason and the Heart," one of his most

JAMES F. HOYLE
'53 P'81 >

Throughout
his life,
Jim was an
eloquent
letter writer.

celebrated publications, and "Monotheism and the Hope in God," published in 2020. His influence was perhaps greatest in the fields of ethics and philosophy of religion.

Bill was also an avid supporter of the arts, a world traveler and a generous contributor to social concerns. Among those were Sojourner Truth House, a domestic-violence service and shelter; the Milwaukee Hunger Task Force; and Planned Parenthood.

Bill is survived by brother **H. Alan Wainwright '59**.

Gary W. Kost '62, on Nov. 28, 2020. He was 80 and a resident of Kettering, Ohio. A native of Mount Vernon, Ohio, Gary attended Kenyon before transferring to Ohio State University, where he earned a bachelor's degree in 1962.

Gary taught at Mount Vernon High School and Mount Vernon Middle School for 38 years. He then moved to the Dayton, Ohio, area, where he volunteered at Dayton Christian Schools for 18 years, participated in the social ministry of the city's Lutheran Church of Our Savior, and volunteered at Dayton's historic Victoria Theatre.

Gary is survived by brother and longtime Kenyon employee **George Kost**.

Rene M. Wachs '63, on Jan. 15, 2021. A resident of Westerville, Ohio, he was 80.

Rene was born in Cincinnati, Ohio, and raised in suburban Milford. He majored in psychology at Kenyon and joined the Middle Kenyon Association.

After completing his master's degree at the Catholic University of America, he then joined the psychology faculty at Ohio Dominican College (now University), where the students named him "Man of the Year" for 1968. He also served for a time as acting chair of Ohio Dominican's psychology department.

Rene was for many years a loyal supporter of Kenyon and generous contributor to its welfare. He is survived by two brothers, **David Ryeburn '54** and **Timothy Wachs '65**.

William A. Hylton Jr. '64 P'96, on Sept. 6, 2020. He was 77 and a resident of the Bolton Hill neighborhood in Baltimore, Maryland.

A native of Catonsville, Maryland, Bill majored in English at Kenyon, where he played varsity lacrosse, served on both Campus Senate and Student Council, won a place in the Senior Society and joined Beta Theta Pi fraternity. Completing his degree requirements in three years, he graduated cum laude, with honors in his major.

Bill was a star of the Lords lacrosse team. His single-game record for points – 13, in a May 5, 1963, contest with Mount Union — stood for 54 years, and his career average of 2.55 assists per game still ranks first in program history. In a published obituary, his son, **Wil Hylton '96**, a contributing writer for the New York Times, said that Bill was "obsessed" with lacrosse and that he thrived behind the net as the quarterback of the offense. "He saw it as a place where he could look out over the field and see all of these vectors converging on the opponent's goal, and he would often be the

WILLIAM A. HYLTON JR.
'64 P'96 >

"When Bill knew he was dying, the worst part for him was all that he wasn't going to be able to discover and know anymore."

person who would pass the ball to someone and control the direction of play for the attack."

Bill earned his law degree from Harvard Law School in 1968 and then returned to Maryland, working for several firms as a trial lawyer and civil litigation specialist before joining Louise Michaux Gonzales to form Hylton and Gonzales in 1980. Their Baltimore firm remains active.

In addition, Bill undertook pro bono work for the Little Sisters of the Poor in Catonsville, participated in the Maryland Institute for the Continuing Professional Education of Lawyers, and chaired the Young Lawyers Association.

Bill's wife, Carol, noted that her husband's greatest passion was travel, the desire for which stemmed from an innate sense of curiosity. "When Bill knew he was dying, the worst part for him was all that he wasn't going to be able to discover and know anymore," she said, adding that he had collected more than 100 flags from countries they had visited.

Bill suffered from multiple myeloma and donated his body to scientific research.

John S. Kerr '65, on July 5, 2020. Just two days shy of his 77th birthday, he was at his home in Scottsdale, Arizona.

John was born in Washington, D.C., and raised in Short Hills, New Jersey. He majored in English at Kenyon, participated in varsity football and track, and joined Delta Tau Delta fraternity.

After graduation, John taught English at the Taft School in Watertown, Connecticut, for two years before enlisting in the U.S. Army and serving as a staff sergeant and area intelligence specialist in Da Lat, Vietnam. While there, he taught English to many Vietnamese citizens, several of whom he befriended and helped to move to the United States.

John earned a master's degree from the Bread Loaf School of English at Middlebury College in 1972 and began a long career at the Kent School in Kent, Connecticut. The many positions he held included English teacher, director of admissions, director of planned giving, senior development officer and assistant secretary of the corporation. He coached the school's varsity wrestling team and became a Certified Financial Planner while there.

Retiring from Kent in 2009 with 39 years of service, John and his wife relocated to Southport, North Carolina. He took up watercolor painting and became quite successful, with several shows, many awards and numerous sales.

John battled thyroid cancer for 12 years, undergoing a total laryngectomy in 2015. As his disease progressed, he and Bonnie chose to move to Scottsdale, where he could receive treatment at the Mayo Clinic Arizona and be closer to family members.

Alan R. Vogeler Jr. '65, on Feb. 2, 2021. He was 77 and a resident of New York City.

A native of Cincinnati, Ohio, Alan majored in English at Kenyon. He wrote for the Collegian and rose to associate editor, served as a class officer and Student Council representative and treasurer, won appointment to the Senior Society and joined Sigma Pi fraternity.

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Alan graduated cum laude, with honors in English, and then earned a law degree from Columbia Law School in 1968. He joined the multinational law firm of Shearman & Sterling and served on active duty in the U.S. Air Force Reserves in 1969.

After 10 years at Shearman & Sterling, Alan formed his own firm focusing on international corporate litigation. That firm, Boyle, Vogeler, and Stebbings, later merged with another, Thelen, Reed, & Priest. In all, Alan practiced in New York City for 50 years.

A former member of Kenyon's Alumni Council, Alan served as the group's president for 1986-87. He was also active as a campaign volunteer, extern sponsor and phonathon volunteer. In 1980, he was presented with a Distinguished Service Award by the Alumni Council.

Alan was an avid golfer and a lover of poetry, both as a reader and a writer. He was also a talented guitarist and pianist.

Alan is survived by brother **Douglas M. Vogeler '71**.

Gregory P. Andorfer '73 H'90, on Oct. 29, 2020. A resident of Frostburg, Maryland, Greg, who had long battled frontotemporal dementia, was 69.

Greg was born and raised in Mount Vernon, Ohio. He double-majored in art history and English at Kenyon, directed the Film Festival, joined the Archon Society and served as its president in his senior year, and graduated cum laude as one of the College's first few art-history concentrators.

After earning a master's degree in arts management from the University of California at Los Angeles, Greg began his career at Los Angeles television station KCET, where he helped create, and then served as series producer and project director for, the award-winning series "Cosmos" with astronomer Carl Sagan. While at WQED in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, Greg was awarded an Emmy as series producer for "Planet Earth," developed in association with the National Academy of Sciences.

Later in his career, Greg took on the role of executive director and CEO of Baltimore's Maryland Science Center. During his tenure, the Science Center completed an eight-figure capital campaign that added a new home for its most iconic exhibit, "Dinosaur Mysteries."

Greg's production credits included the IMAX films "Human Body" and "Dinosaurs Alive!" The Discovery Channel collaborated with his production company, Stardust Visual, to produce the first science-driven and forensic-focused investigations into the wreck site of the Titanic, resulting in what became the channel's most-watched series. His work won five Emmys and international recognition.

Greg was a two-term board member of the Association of Science and Technology Centers and chair of its advocacy committee. He was also president of a consortium of 10 museums involved in the creation of the cutting-edge traveling exhibition "Women's Health."

In 1990, Kenyon awarded Greg an honorary doctorate in humane letters in recognition of his leadership in the communication of science to the American and international public. In the citation

ELLIOTT "SANDY"
ROBINSON III '74 >

Sandy took pride in his leadership role in the Red Cross efforts to assist with Hurricane Agnes relief in 1972 and the Three Mile Island disaster in 1979.

for his degree, Professor of English John C. Ward noted that Greg had "made (his) mark indelibly on the way we see the world of science, in cosmic or microcosmic detail."

Greg was preceded in death by his son, Gregory R. Andorfer. Memorial contributions may be made to the Gregory Andorfer Fund of the Gund Gallery, Attn: Sharon Williams, Office of Development, Kenyon College, Gambier, Ohio 43022-9623.

Elliott "Sandy" Robinson III '74, on Jan. 20, 2021. He was 72 and a resident of Middletown, Pennsylvania.

Born in Providence, Rhode Island, Sandy grew up in Germany (while his physician father was stationed there); in Lewistown, Pennsylvania; and in Waverly, New York, where the family home remained until the early 1990s. He majored in biology at Kenyon, served as a deejay on WKCO and joined the Middle Kenyon Association.

Sandy worked at the American Red Cross as part of the Fire and Rescue and Disaster Relief programs, as well as instructing boating and swimming classes and serving as a dedicated member of the ski patrol. He took pride in his leadership role in the Red Cross efforts to assist with Hurricane Agnes relief in 1972 and the Three Mile Island disaster in 1979.

Sandy later spent many years doing computer database work for Johns Hopkins University and American College Testing. He spent his final years of employment as a substitute teacher.

Sandy took annual trips that imbued him with a great love for the outdoors, and he took pride in sharing those experiences with his family and friends. Another of his passions was music, in which he participated by singing in choirs and community theater and harmonizing with his siblings.

John F. Hennessy III '77, on Feb. 21, 2021. He was 65 and a resident of New Canaan, Connecticut.

Born in New York City, John was raised in New Canaan. At Kenyon, he majored in physics, played varsity golf and joined Alpha Delta Phi fraternity, which he served as treasurer.

John went on to earn two further degrees in addition to his bachelor's in physics: a bachelor of science in mechanical engineering from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (1978) and a master's in management from the Sloan School of Management at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (1988). He joined Syska & Hennessy (now Syska Hennessy Group) in 1978, when the consulting-engineer firm cofounded by his grandfather was 50 years old, and worked in its offices in Los Angeles, San Francisco and New York City. One of his earliest jobs there was as a project mechanical engineer, with assignments that included the Jacob Javits Convention Center in New York City.

Eleven years later, when he had risen to senior vice president of business development and human resources, John was unexpectedly called upon to take the reins as chair and CEO of Syska & Hennessy upon the death of his father. Only 33 at the time, John served in the role until 2004, expanding the

firm into new markets in the U.S. and abroad.

John became the first chair of a new statewide consulting engineer group in 2000, now known as the American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC) New York. After serving as chair of the metropolitan region of ACEC New York, he became the national chair, as well as chair of the New York Building Congress.

At the time of his death, John was the managing partner of Hennessy Energy. He was also a director at the utility Con Edison and chair of the advisory board of the Salvation Army.

John is survived by brother **Peter B. Hennessy '82**.

Mark H. Bistline '80, on Nov. 13, 2020. A resident of Middletown, Rhode Island, he was 63.

Mark grew up in Alexandria, Virginia, and majored in studio art at Kenyon, where he was a member of the Kokosingers.

Mark is remembered by a friend from his college years as “the troubadour’s troubadour” with a “totally unique take on things and an utterly singular artistic vision. To have known Mark in those days was to have known magic.”

After Kenyon, Mark taught at TASIS England, Wilbraham & Monson Academy in Massachusetts, and St. George’s School in Rhode Island, where he spent nine years as chair of the art department and coached the junior varsity baseball team.

In 1995, Mark teamed up with a St. George’s art-department colleague to launch a graphic design firm called Daedalus Design, which became Schoolyard, Inc., the first company to develop websites exclusively for independent schools. He built Schoolyard into a 20-year enterprise, serving more than 300 independent schools in the United States and abroad.

He sold Schoolyard in 2017 and returned to teaching a year later, serving as chair of the art and music departments at Cape Cod Academy until his cancer was diagnosed in the fall of 2019. He had also served as executive director of the Arts and Cultural Alliance of Newport County and as a board member and then chair at the Pennfield School, for which he led the charge to build the independent day school’s permanent home in Portsmouth, Rhode Island.

“In the end, it came down to music, friends and family for Mark,” a friend said. The groups with which he made music included Kenyon’s Kokes and the Educaterz, a prep-school-teacher rock band he co-founded. Finally, there was the Irish session band he joined in 2017 after teaching himself to play the mandolin.

Christian L. Rogers '81, on June 26, 2020. He was 61 and a resident of Centreville, Maryland.

A music major and drama enthusiast at Kenyon, Chris split his time between the basement practice rooms at Rosse Hall and backstage at the then-new Bolton Theater. For his efforts, he won membership in the Drama Club.

Chris worked as a computer programmer for Syndicus NACON Consulting LLC, programming and developing cybersecurity compliance features. His career included working as a stockbroker for

CHRISTIAN L. ROGERS
'81 >

“Chris
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the Ohio Co. and Baker Watts; creating and managing a mail-order seafood business, Chesapeake Express, which earned accolades from Julia Child for its crab cakes; and combining his talents in marketing and information technology for his own company, RLK Marketing.

Following his twin avocations, acting and community theater, Chris starred in many local productions and developed a reputation as a masterful wit both on and off the stage. In 2013, he co-founded the Shore Shakespeare Company, an outdoor theater troupe. A member of the troupe recalls, “Chris believed in the power and beauty not only of Shakespeare but of theater as a whole. He truly created a community.”

Chris is survived by a niece, **Helen T. Rogers '15**, and his former wife, **M. Reed Valliant '81**.

Lee Tucker Therriault '86, on Dec. 26, 2020. A resident of Seattle, Washington, she was 56.

Lee was born in Oakland, California, the younger of two sisters in a family that relocated often during her childhood. A gifted clarinetist, she considered a career as a professional musician before deciding to enroll at Kenyon. There, she majored in English, served on the staffs of the Collegian and the Kenyon Review, and spent her junior year in the Kenyon program at England’s University of Exeter.

After earning her bachelor’s degree, Lee returned to Britain to undertake an internship in London. She then moved on to Seattle to be closer to family members. Her professional life there took her to the Washington State Department of Social and Health Services.

Lee had a successful career in public relations, working as a publicist for Bastyr University, the Bathhouse Theatre, Group Health (the largest HMO in Washington state) and North Seattle Community College before her health began to fail.

Her bravery in the face of constant pain was inspiring as she tried to maintain good spirits and optimism through a 20-year cascade of debilitating health problems. She was known for her sweet and sensible nature, and she gave good counsel to others experiencing hard times.

Sonya D. Dudgeon '90, on March 22, 2021, after a long battle with cancer. A resident of Newport Beach, California, she was 52.

“I am so heartbroken to hear of Sonya’s passing,” said Beverly Morse, retired associate dean, who worked with Sonya in Kenyon’s admissions office and lived next door to her for many years on Gambier’s East Woodside Drive. “Her wickedly good sense of humor carried all of us through the good times and the tough ones.”

Sonya was a native of Gambier, descended from a long line of local residents who could trace their lineage in the area back to one of the English stone-cutters hired to work on the building now known as Old Kenyon. She graduated from Mount Vernon High School and then followed her older sister to the college across the fields from home.

At Kenyon, Sonya was active and involved, particularly with the Collegian, of which she was an

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editor, and the Student Alumni Association. After a junior semester abroad in Vienna, Austria, she returned to Gambier to complete her degree in political science.

Sonya worked in human resources in the Washington, D.C., area before returning to Gambier in 2002. Three years later, she accepted her first job at Kenyon, as campus events director in the Office of Alumni and Parent Programs. She took her first position in the College's Office of Admissions in 2009 and worked her way up to associate dean and director of international admissions.

"Unfailingly good-natured and good-hearted, Sonya was a force of nature, in all the best ways," remembered **Elizabeth R. Forman '73**, retired senior associate director of admissions.

"For Sonya, college admissions work was a true calling," Forman continued. "She cared greatly for the prospective students, and she worked tirelessly for them and her alma mater. She was determined to bring creative, diverse, hard-working, community-minded students to Kenyon. Her work, in tandem with our colleague Bev Morse, helped to change the College from a nationally known liberal-arts institution to one with an international reputation for excellence."

A talented violinist, she played in the Knox County Symphony and smaller groups. She also offered music lessons.

In 2019, after 14 years of service to Kenyon, Sonya left to become the California-based associate dean of admissions for New York's Union College. She was living in California with her partner at the time of her death.

Sonya is survived by a sister, **Stephanie L. Dudgeon '85**; her partner, **Sean A. Ward '90**; and her former husband, **P. Robert Broeren '91**.

Sonya made many friends over the years, and they followed her cancer remissions and relapses closely. In the words of **Jack Au '73**, whose affection for her grew as they worked together to bring more Chinese students to Kenyon, "Sonya showed us how not to give up."

Samuel S. Althans '16, on Dec. 18, 2020. He was 26 and a resident of Delta, Ohio.

A native of Cleveland, Ohio, Sam grew up in suburban Pepper Pike. At Kenyon, he majored in economics and minored in environmental sciences, sang with the Chasers and the Community Choir, and joined Delta Tau Delta fraternity, which he served as president.

Sam did post-graduate work at the London School of Economics before working in financial services with Charles Schwab in Indianapolis, Indiana.

In addition to hockey and lacrosse, he enjoyed the outdoors and travel. He combined the latter by riding his bicycle with Overland teen groups, coast to coast across the country and from Seattle, Washington, to San Francisco, California — with all his needs for the trips carried on his bike.

Sam is survived by his parents, **Susan Opatrny Althans '84** and Gregory P. Althans; a brother, **Arthur "Trace" Althans III '13**; and a sister-in-law, **Alana Lawson Althans '14**.

< SONYA D.
DUDGEON '90

"Sonya was determined to bring creative, diverse, hard-working, community-minded students to Kenyon."

Mary Moffat Finkbeiner, longtime Gambier resident and retired Kenyon staff member, on Jan. 28, 2021. Mary — who remained, at 98, a paragon of optimism and determination — had been living at Brookdale in Mount Vernon, Ohio.

A native of Washington, Pennsylvania, Mary grew up there and in Ohio, Indiana and Illinois. She graduated in 1943 with a bachelor's degree in French and Spanish from Western College for Women in Oxford, Ohio. Mary moved to Gambier in 1951 with her husband, Daniel T. Finkbeiner II, who worked as a professor of mathematics at Kenyon before retiring in 1984.

In addition to raising four daughters, she became deeply involved in the community, volunteering with organizations like the American Red Cross, Knox County Democratic Women, the League of Women Voters, the PTA in Gambier and New Directions. She also served for a time as clerk-treasurer for the village.

From 1967 to 1976, Mary worked at the College as a part-time library assistant in Ascension Hall's Mathematics Library (later the Daniel T. Finkbeiner II Reading Room). In 1979, she rejoined the Kenyon staff as a copy editor at the Psychological Record, from which she retired in 2007.

A. Christine "Christy" Smith

Brown, a former member of the Kenyon and Gambier communities, on Feb. 10, 2021. She was 69 and a resident of Pennsylvania.

Christy lived in Gambier from 1988 to 1996, when her husband, Bill Brown, was the College's head men's basketball coach. The Browns moved to California in 1996, when Bill was named the head basketball coach at California University of Pennsylvania.

Born in Nelsonville, Ohio, Christy graduated from Ohio University in 1974 with a bachelor's degree in education. While the Browns were in Gambier, she taught at Wiggin Street School.

Betty Jo Fisher Morrison-Mizer, on Saturday, March 13, 2021, in Newark, Ohio. She was 73 and a resident of Gambier.

Betty Jo was employed in food services at Kenyon for more than 41 years. An award-winning competitive baker, she had taken many prizes at fairs and festivals in Ohio.

Betty Jo had been a member of the Mount Vernon Lions Club since 1985. A participant in Relay for Life since 2008, she had been especially active with Operation Christmas Child. She attended Faith Lutheran Church in Mount Vernon and enjoyed traveling to fairs, festivals and concerts.

Joan Fletcher Pomajevich, a longtime staff member in the Kenyon libraries, on Nov. 20, 2020. She was 81 and a resident of Mount Vernon.

A graduate of Ohio State University, Joan was first employed by the College in 1990. She retired from Kenyon in 2010 as head of circulation with 20 years of service.

Joan was active in her church, where she sang in the choir. Her hobbies ranged from antiquing and canning to watching Ohio State football games and spending time with her family.

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Back Talk



(our Table of Contents in reverse)

Welcome to the end of your alumni magazine journey; we hope you enjoyed it. Or, for those starting at the back and reading forward, please enjoy this reward for breaking the rules. Here are a few moments in the magazine that we wanted to make sure you caught.



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BETTER THAN AN INSTAGRAM FILTER

Studio art major Kefa Memeh '22 combines her love of painting, photography and Nigerian culture to create new works on a canvas she always has handy.



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'Two humps are better than one' — Science

Assistant Professor of Biology and Environmental Studies Iris Levin's "Disease Ecology" course tries to spot the next pandemic and shares a theory about camels as disease vectors.



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Old Kenyon was the original hype house

What ties together a \$100 million gift, a half-finished house near Manhattan, memories of late-night Bushnell chats and Watson's conversation-starter lobby? Kenyon's core residential experience, of course.

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Kebab your pineapples on the path to enlightenment

Featuring "easy and delicious" Hawai'ian-inspired recipes including garlic shrimp and mahi mahi, this new cookbook will help your grill help you.

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Introducing indie folk rocker Josh Radnor

Come for the I-70 references, stay for his mom's advice on life's peaks and valleys.

Glitter in the Sky

The Chalmers Library atrium features a skylight containing a glass art installation by David Wilson Design, which generates a dynamic pattern of colors that change throughout the day based on the position of the sun. A sneak peek at the new library can be found on page 8.

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Why is Bill Murray in my alumni magazine?

Because he's everywhere. (Also, it has to do with an ancient Hebrew poem.)



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: KEFA MEMEH '22; BROCKEL AVALLEY; SHUTTERSTOCK; ARCHIVES; SHUTTERSTOCK



ONE MORE THING ...

“Without hope, there’s no reason to innovate — to work on something now that isn’t going to bear fruit for years, decades or centuries.”

— **Lincoln Bleveans '89.** For additional stories about finding hope in unexpected places, turn to page 20.

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